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Israel

In the first reaction to remarks by Secretary Baker on linking the granting of loan gurarantees to a freeze in settlement activity, Foreign Minister Levi said Washington "will be unable to force anything" on the country and that "only sincere efforts by both countries will enable a compromise on the issue of guarantees to be reached," Jerusalem television reported. Before Baker's remarks, Shamir, addressing a Jerusalem conference of U.S. Jewish leaders, said that bilateral "disagreements" should be kept "in the proper perspective," Jerusalem radio added. Speaking to settlement leaders the previous day, Shamir said that as long as he is prime minister, Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza will not be halted, "not even for one day," HA'ARETZ disclosed. Likud Knesset members accused the United States of "intervention in Israel's internal election" regarding reports that Washington has decided to support Labor and Yitzhaq Rabin in the June Knesset elections, the radio noted.

Arab-Israeli Talks

The Syrian delegate said Israel is trying to focus on "marginal issues" in the resumed talks, Damascus radio reported. The Lebanese negotiator spoke of some "differences" in talks with the Israelis, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, whose correspondent noted observers' "surprise" that the talks were held in "a very calm atmosphere."

Libya

The judge in charge of investigating the Lockerbie case "categorically denied" reports that the two defendants have been acquitted, MENA reported. Ahmad al-Zawawi also "expressed his extreme dissatisfaction" with a State Department spokesman's categorization of recent trial proceedings as a "judicial farce," the agency continued.

Lebanon

The government has decided to halt the firing of rockets at Israel "because this is not an acceptable form of resistance," the prime minister told the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Hizballah cleric Fadlallah said that while he foresees continuing violence with Israel, "Western citizens have nothing to fear in Lebanon;" he was speaking to the Hamburg magazine DER SPIEGEL.

Algeria

The Council of Minsters adopted the government's action plan, details of which were reported by Algiers radio. In a press conference he held to explain the move, the prime minister also discussed the recent government reshuffle and the inclusion in it of an Islamic Salvation Front member, the radio continued.

Iran

The foreign minister departed for Baku on a mission to mediate between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Tehran radio reported. The trip, which represents what Velayati called "Iran's first step at mediation," comes at the request of the two republics, the radio continued.

Sudan

Omdurman radio broadcast parts of a speech by Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir during a "surprise" visit to the southern town of Juba. In his speech, al-Bashir said that "if Garang wants to negotiate now, we are ready," and that peace could be achieved "in a month, two months, or three months at the most." He added, however, that if Garang "does not accept peace we shall impose peace by force."

Saudi Arabia

Prince 'Abdallah received Muhammad Bakir al-Hakim as the Iraqi opposition leader continued his visit, Riyadh television reported.

Pakistan

Media reported on the visit by Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev, during which a number of protocols were signed.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab Negotiators Comment on Resumption of Talks

Syrian Sees 'Discouraging Atmosphere'

JN2402162892 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Washington, 24 Feb (SANA)—At 1000 Washington time today, 1700 Damascus time, the third round of Middle East peace talks began amid a discouraging atmosphere of Israeli provocation and aggressive actions in southern Lebanon and the region.

In a statement to journalists prior to the beginning of the talks, head of the Syrian delegation Muwaffaq al-'Allaf expressed hope that despite this discouraging atmosphere something would be realized in these talks, especially since four months have passed since the convening of the Madrid peace conference.

He added that each time the Arab delegations have come to Washington to hold talks on peace, the Israeli Government has escalated its aggressive and provocative practices, thus casting more doubt on the sincerity of its intentions toward the peace process.

Al-'Allaf added: Such aggressive actions certainly leave their impact on the peace process. To us, however, they constitute an additional incentive to double efforts to restore peace to the Middle East.

Israel Still Raising 'Marginal Issues'

JN2402214992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2120 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has announced that during the opening session of the third round of talks today, the Israelis returned to give a distorted explanation of Security Council Resolution 242 and to drive the talks toward marginal issues.

Speaking after the first session of talks this morning, Mr. al-'Allaf said: For our part, we immediately entered into substantive and tangible issues. We once again raised the basis of the peace process—namely, Resolution 242, because this subject was discussed in previous rounds. He added: We explained our understanding of this resolution, which is supported by the world community, we explained all its articles, and expressed our readiness and determination to abide by all those articles and by all aspects of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. al-'Allaf condemned the maneuvers of the Israeli delegation, which still claims that Resolution 242 does not demand Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and that the resolution gives Israel the right to occupy and annex large parts of these territories.

Jordanian on Talks, U.S. Loan Decision

JN2502072292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, member of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, conducted by unidentified reporter in Amman, on 25 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Fayiz, how did the talks proceed in the first session of [Jordanian-Israeli] talks yesterday?

[Al-Tarawinah] The heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations met for about one hour and held a general discussion on the outcome of the previous session and methods for the talks over the next two weeks, God willing. Following this general meeting, a meeting along the Jordanian-Israeli track was held, and it was agreed to hold a Palestinian-Israeli meeting at a later point. During the Jordanian-Israeli meeting, and because it was the first session, a general discussion about the subjects raised in the previous round was held—namely our understanding of Resolution 242, the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and, of course, the land-for-peace equation. We stressed Jordan's concepts and constants: Our vision for a future peace for the sake of coming generations, the comprehensiveness of peace, especially as concerns our Palestinian brethren under occupation and practices against them. We talked about the implementation of the fourth Geneva Convention to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories. We have not yet touched on topics on the agenda. We hope to discuss this in the next meetings, tomorrow or the day after. We, in fact, wanted to stress the main issues that constitute our constants, the issues on which the invitation for the conference was extended, notably our understanding of [UN] Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Reporter] Doctor, is it possible to say that an agreement on the agenda of the next rounds has been reached?

[Al-Tarawinah] No agendas have been discussed. As you know, we exchanged agendas at the end of the previous session. But in this session, we talked about the bases from which we proceed in the talks before moving to the agenda. We hope, perhaps tomorrow or the day after, to reach an agreement about the priorities of the agenda.

[Reporter] Dr. Fayiz, will there be further meetings for the heads of the Arab delegations to the negotiations?

[Al-Tarawinah] The four Arab delegations met for about three hours yesterday. We discussed many issues related to every individual track, with a view to establishing the principle of comprehensiveness, full coordination, and nature of negotiations over main and substantive issues. I can say that there was full identity of views among all Arab sides. And, of course, we discussed the subject of changing the venue—a subject that the Israeli delegation may propose. We have not yet heard anything about this from the Americans. We will postpone discussion of this

subject until after we hear from the sponsor of the conference. We discussed issues in detail, and agreed on all points related to the talks with the other side, notably the settlements and the way to handle this subject in the Palestinian-Israeli track. Settlement activity is a very important issue, and the Palestinian brethren will not proceed to any other item before discussing it. There was full Arab agreement about this. This is a Palestinian issue related to the occupied territories, of course, but in principle and essence, this is a main Arab issue.

[Reporter] Dr. Fayiz, as you know, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced last night that the United States will not give Israel the loan guarantees it requested unless it completely stops and freezes settlements in the occupied Arab territories. What is your opinion of this U.S. position and its effect on the peace talks in Washington?

[Al-Tarawinah] This position is very positive. We are following with keen interest the comments and preamble of not only Baker's statement, but his full testimony to the Congress, and the details of this issue. As you know, the Arab, and particularly the Palestinian, position on this issue is that it is not possible to discuss the arrangements of transitional self-government if settlement activity continues. This is because if this activity continues, there will be no land, and the inhabitants will be uprooted before discussing its final status, as mentioned in the invitation to the peace talks. Freezing settlement activity, therefore, is a main issue, and is the basis of the negotiations and the dialogue over the transitional government arrangements. Also, as you know, there is settlement activity in the Golan, which is occupied Syrian territory, and settlement activity has a direct effect on Jordan in terms of dispersing people and so on and so forth. We therefore consider the U.S. Administration's statement very positive, and hope it will help the negotiations continue on the basis of Arab rights.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah.

[Al-Tarawinah] You are welcome.

Lebanese Negotiator on 'Differences'

NC2502091592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpts] There has been no progress in the Lebanese-Israeli talks. AFP reports that the two delegations gave conflicting accounts of the talks. Lebanese delegation chief Suhayl Shammas noted the existence of several differences that the two sides are trying to work out. Shammas said that Lebanon seeks to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, but Israel is pressing for a peace treaty. Reacting to Israeli statements, Shammas said that everyone should know we are here as a separate delegation. We coordinate with Syria, which is natural, but I reject any slurs concerning our independence. Shammas noted that the main topic of the talks was the situation in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in Washington Michel al-Haj spoke on the telephone with colleague Tony Murad late last night. Here is a recording of their conversation:

[Begin recording] [Murad] Michel, what can you tell us about the Lebanese-Israel talks that were held today?

[Al-Haj] The atmosphere of today's talks was a surprise to many observers. Most U.S. and Lebanese observers had expected a stormy meeting. What happened instead was that the meeting was held in a very calm atmosphere. The Lebanese delegation surprised the Israeli delegation with its calm and smooth presentation of the various topics.

[Murad] Do you have any specific details about that meeting?

[Al-Haj] What we know is that the meeting focused on the recent events in the region. The Lebanese delegation made it clear that it is fully committed to the peace process and willing to discuss with Israel the requisites for peace. The issue of security certainly is paramount. The Lebanese side voiced its commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and noted that the Lebanese Army is ready to deploy and maintain law and order along Lebanon's international border. According to sources, the Lebanese delegation expressed the Lebanese State's resolve to control the situation and prevent the firing of rockets and the deployment of gunmen in the south. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Palestinians on Loan, Talks

JN2502091392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Hisham Milhim report from Washington]

[Excerpts] The first day of the fourth round of bilateral negotiations between the Arabs and Israel ended in Washington without any progress. While Israeli officials tried to suggest that the talks were good, Arab officials stressed Israel's negative positions and warned that if this round fails to make tangible progress, then the peace conference, with both its bilateral and multilateral talks, will be endangered, or perhaps will collapse.

However, the main development that attracted the attention of Washington and the negotiating parties took place not in the negotiating halls, but in one of the U.S. Congress halls, when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stressed once again his government's opposition to Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. Baker said that Washington may approve $10 billion in loan guarantees to Israel if settlement activity is stopped or ended, and that any U.S. assistance to Israel must be presented in a manner that supports, not hinders, U.S. policy in the region.

Some Arab parties welcomed Baker's position. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi described the U.S. secretary's position as constructive and said it will return

the peace process to its right course. She considered this position as a ray of hope, because the subject of settlement is being discussed openly and seriously in Congress and before the American people.

'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian delegation expects a more active role by Washington, as a driving force behind the peace process. She expects the United States to present proposals to bridge the gap between the negotiating parties. 'Ashrawi stressed that it is necessary for this round to make tangible progress, or else the multilateral talks will be endangered. [passage omitted]

Monday afternoon, a Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held, with the Palestinian delegation presenting a detailed paper on settlements in the occupied territories. The paper stresses that the settlements violate international law and comprehensively harm the Palestinian people. The paper demands that Israel immediately stop these acts.

After the meeting, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said Israel's position is very negative, endangering the resumption of the negotiations. He expressed belief that the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the negotiations, should intervene in the talks. [passage omitted]

Further Remarks by Delegation Heads

JN2402213992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Video report by Murid Hammad on statements by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation; Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; and Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, in Washington on 24 February—first paragraph is announcer-read introduction]

[Text] The third round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks began in Washington today. The Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Israeli delegations arrived at the State Department to resume talks adjourned last month. Murid Hammad in Washington has the details.

[Begin recording] [Hammad, in progress] ...began bilateral peace talks with Israel here in Washington in what was described as a decisive round. The four Arab parties taking part in the talks have said that achieving progress in this round was crucial to the entire peace process. The talks started at 1000 [1500 GMT] Washington time with a meeting of the heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations. It was shortly followed by the beginning Jordanian-Israeli track. Delegation head Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali said the two sides exchanged agendas, but were divided over settlements and the interpretation of [UN Resolution] 242:

[Al-Majali] We had a meeting of the three heads of the two tracks, and we discussed a request from the Israeli delegation that he wants a general meeting, and we agreed that we will have a joint meeting tomorrow morning at 0930 to discuss what his suggestions. [sentence as heard] He wants to talk about venue and timetable, and possibly other matters. It will be a very short one, maybe half an hour, and then the track will start. This morning after the discussion of the three heads, we started our meeting in our track—Jordan-Israeli track—and we exchanged again our items of agenda, and we started talking about these items in an open way, in a very constructive way. Still, we have a lot of difference about these two points of settlements and the 242 interpretation.

[Hammad] Last night, the heads and some members of the four Arab delegations met to coordinate positions ahead of today's talks. This was one of several meetings designed to discuss several issues pertaining to the peace process. A source in the Jordanian delegation told the News at Ten that the four heads of delegation reviewed negotiating rounds and stressed the need to achieve progress in this round. They also discussed a change in the talks venue and agreed that any change is tied to progress in this round.

[Al-Majali] Certainly, the item which is 242 interpretation and being the reference for all these meetings should be clarified and put aside, and then the problem of the settlements should be frozen, otherwise we cannot see any success to any negotiation if the settlements go on as on the pace which is going on and it is not frozen.

[Hammad] Israel wants to move the talks from Washington back to the region. Do you have anything to say about this?

[Al-Majali] Israel has kept asking for this for several times and this time the same, and our answer: We cannot move from one place to the other unless we see really progress in the peace process itself.

[Al-'Allaf] If we discover at the end of this round that the Israelis are still trying to maneuver and to waste time, then we have to reconsider our attitude in this peace process.

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have already presented the Israeli side with our vision of the interim period, and, of course, we have emphasized that a prerequisite for substantive negotiations is the cessation of the settlement process.

[Hammad] Lebanon's chief negotiator Suhayl Shammas denounced Israel's attacks on south Lebanon and said he reserved the right to raise the issue with the Israeli delegation:

[Shammas] They were extremely provocative and they have left havoc, and whatever were their motivations, to us they are unjustified.

[Hammad] The Palestinian-Israeli track is scheduled to begin later this evening in what is also expected to be another decisive session. The Palestinians have said that a halt to Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is

a prerequisite to moving up the agenda of the talks. They said they will tell the American Administration and the Israeli delegation that a halt to Jewish settlement is very crucial to the success of the peace process. Tonight they will submit papers on human rights, on settlements, on the Geneva Conventions, and an interim self-government for the Palestinians as seen by the Palestinian delegation. [end recording]

Al-Majali on 23 Feb Coordination Meeting

JN2402132892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1205 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Washington talks, by unidentified reporter on 24 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, last night you met with heads of Arab delegations to the negotiations. What took place during that meeting?

[Al-Majali] The meeting was part of a series of meetings that are continuously held among the four delegations in Washington to study the issues presented and the positions adopted on them, to try to clarify the issues to all delegations, and to try to remove possible obstacles to the negotiations. Yesterday's meeting was held to find out whether any progress was made with the other brothers, to know the issues that will be presented today, Monday, and to examine and exchange opinions on any of these issues.

[Reporter] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, what constants will the Jordanian side stress during the fourth round of negotiations?

[Al-Majali] We are still at the stage of exchanging agendas, and trying to agree on a clear agenda. Even though some points were discussed last time, this time we will stress the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and all that is related to them. We will also emphasize the need to halt settlements.

[Reporter] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, the Israelis have declared that they will refuse to discuss the settlement issue in this round of talks. What effects will this refusal have on the course of the negotiations?

[Al-Majali] This is a big obstacle, and indicates that Israel does not want peace, because the settlement issue is a basic topic. If settlement continues, it will determine the fate of the negotiations. In other words, there will be no land for the Palestinians to negotiate over.

[Reporter] The Israelis seek to transfer the talks from Washington. What is the position of the Arab sides on this?

[Al-Majali] All parties agree that the talks must not be moved from Washington to any other country unless clear progress is made in the peace process.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

Israeli Media Report on Resumption of Talks

After First Meetings

TA2402202192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The first meetings between the Israeli and the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations ended in Washington some time ago. The meeting with the Palestinians will be held later tonight.

The meeting opened with a Jordanian request that Israel stop building settlements. Our correspondent notes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker asked the Arab delegations to refrain from pushing the talks over the edge because a crisis will not serve their interests. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington:

After a few weeks' break, the familiar sight of the arrival of Israeli and Arab delegations at the State Department again was seen in Washington today. The heads of the Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations—Drs. Rubinstein, al-Majali, and 'Abd-al- Shafi—met and agreed to hold the Israeli-Jordanian talks first and to postpone the Israeli-Palestinian talks for later tonight.

The Palestinian delegation said that it will demand at the beginning of the talks that Israel halt settlements. We asked Dr. Rubinstein what Israel will do if such a demand is presented.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] Well, I assume that they know the answer, namely, that there are to be no ultimatums or preconditions. We have come with serious intentions, and I hope that they have arrived at the talks with a similar attitude regarding interim arrangements. Last time, they tried to present an ultimatum, and they failed—they withdrew the precondition a day later. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Talks With Palestinians Viewed

TA2502062492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks last night presented the Israeli delegation with a document explaining its demand for a stop to settlement. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in the first working meeting between the two delegations, the Israelis made it clear to the Palestinians why the Palestinian plan for self-government presented in the previous round of talks is unacceptable. The Israeli delegation has a 12-point plan for self-government for the Palestinians in the territories.

The plenum of the Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations is convening today in an attempt to find a location near the Middle East for the next round of talks. Israel has presented the Americans a list of 10 alternative sites for the next round of talks.

More on Talks With Palestinians

TA2502102992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Feb 92 pp 1, 2

[Report from Washington by Dora Perl and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, gave a press briefing yesterday at the end of the first session of the peace talks in Washington. He said that the Israeli delegation did not present a comprehensive model for Palestinian self-government in the territories. Instead, he said, the Israeli team dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation presented "issues and problems" related to various components of self-government.

Ben-Aharon noted that "the difference is only in the approach." Instead of starting with the overall question, we start with the components of what will ultimately become self-government. As an example, he cited the fact that Israeli experts had made presentations on issues pertaining to religion, transportation, and health, which will be part of the self-government when it is established.

He said Israel will respond to the model proposed by the Palestinians in the previous round of talks. Replying to a question, Ben-Aharon noted that it "largely" differs from the Israeli proposal.

At the beginning of the briefing, Ben-Aharon complained that the talks are once again being held in Washington and that the delegation had to travel thousands of miles to speak to their neighbors from across the border.

Ben-Aharon used very guarded language when referring to Secretary of State James Baker's testimony before Congress concerning the loan guarantees and said he hopes a solution "that will satisfy both sides" may yet be found. He reiterated the right of Jews "to settle in the West Bank and in Gaza" and asserted that the government has no intention of stopping settlement. On the other hand, he said, the government has not yet given up on getting the guarantees. [passage omitted]

[A related report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Washington correspondent Qeren Neubach on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 February adds: "Ben-Aharon pointed out that the talks will last until the beginning of next week and said he hopes there will be no U.S. intervention in this round of talks either." Ben-Aharon is quoted as saying: "I hope these continue to be direct discussions. Notwithstanding our great appreciation for all that the United States has done so far and the fact that it is hosting the talks, we hope to be able to pursue the negotiations freely and without U.S. intervention."]

[Neubach reports that in reaction to Baker's remarks, Ben-Aharon said "that the U.S. Administration has created a link between the guarantees for immigrant absorption and settlement, at a time when the lives of Jews in various republics of the former Soviet Union are still in danger." Ben-Aharon is quoted as saying, "We will not give in on settlement nor will we give up on the guarantees." The paper notes that Ben-Aharon "would not explain how Israel intends to go about attaining that end, saying that the negotiations with the U.S. Administration are still under way and that he is not prepared to go into detail."]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Message to Forum on Jerusalem

LD2302195292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Message from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to Shaykh Mawlana 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Siddiqi, president of the International Organization of Muslims, on the holding of a roundtable on Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque in London on 23 February—read by announcer]

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has sent a message of greetings to Shaykh Mawlana 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Siddiqi, president of the International Organization of Muslims, on the occasion of holding a roundtable on Jerusalem and the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque which will start its proceedings in London today.

In his message, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar warns against the dangers of continued Jewish emigration to Palestine and the building of settlements in holy Jerusalem with a view to its complete Judaization. He indicates that the U.S. loans are likely to constitute a factor of encouragement and help in the policy of Judaizing the occupied territories and the Islamic sanctities.

Brother Abu-'Ammar says in his message: Palestine, with its land, its people, and its sanctities, is continously and in an unprecedented way being subjected to successive campaigns of Judaization, annexation, expansion, and destruction. What is happening now in holy Jerusalem, and in the town of Hebron and other holy places, is the biggest operation of Judaization, annexation, and change of the demographic characteristics of these places in our occupied land. In addition, Israel, the occupying power, is committing the most repugnant crimes against our steadfast and fighting people in our occupied land, as was the case in the massacre of holy Jerusalem a year ago when our faithful people stood as one man to defend their sanctities and the first of the two Qiblahs to protect them against Israeli attacks and Judaization, and the operations of destruction and excavations since Israel, the extremist groups, and the Jewish settlers were trying to occupy the honored Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque in order to lay down the foundation stone of what is called the Third Temple. The excavations carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities in the holy city are threatening most of our Islamic and Christian sanctities with collapse and destruction.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar added in his message: The confiscation of lands and property inside holy Jerusalem and our other holy towns, and the desecration of the sanctity of the Islamic and Christian holy sites are crimes committed on a daily basis by the Israeli occupation authorities with a view to changing the demographic character of these sites, Judaizing them, and settling the new Jewish immigrants in this holy city and others.

These Israeli policies are also aimed at putting an end to the Arab, Islamic, and Christian presence in our sacred land and changing its civilizational, Islamic, and Christian features. What is taking place against the holy places and against the holy city of Jerusalem, the city of cities, the city of peace, tolerance, and love, is a blatant violation of the resolutions of international legality, particularly those concerning Jerusalem. It is open defiance of our Arab and Islamic nation, of the resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization, and of the international community.

Brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar said that the Judaization process is being accompanied by a frenzied settlement assault aimed at Judaizing what remains of the Palestinian and Arab lands in order to settle more new Jewish immigrants there. In fact, the Israeli occupation authorities are busily engaged in an all-out campaign to confiscate Palestinian lands through a comprehensive survey of large areas, seize them, and set up ready-made housing units—trailers—calling them settlements. These authorities are also offering huge financial and other incentives to encourage new Jewish immigrants to settle there.

This intensive settlement campaign is being undertaken by the governmen; of the Israeli enemy shortly before debates by the U.S. Congress on guarantees for the loans requested. What is strange is that the U.S. Administration is playing down the danger of settlements and its condemnation of them, considering this only an obstacle to the peace process, while according to international legality and resolutions it is an illegal act.

Likewise, when talking about settlements, the U.S. Administration does not mention the large-scale settlements taking place in Jerusalem and its suburbs, as if Jerusalem were not an occupied land. Thus, the excuses used by the U.S. Administration to agree to offer the loans requested or any part thereof are unacceptable excuses, excuses meant only to support the Israeli occupation and its continuation, as well as to bolster the Israeli economy. Brother Abu-'Ammar emphasized that this U.S. policy constitutes a threat to the peace process, for it confers legitimacy frankly and directly on the settlement operations. It provides them with the necessary support and financing by crooked means, and it is giving great support to all the extremist trends in Israel for their settlement schemes and antipeace line.

I am confident, he says, that you are sharing with us our assessment of the great dangers resulting from the offering of loans and assistance to Israel, which will encourage the settlement operations, the continuing occupation, and Israeli crimes against our Palestinian people, their territory, and their sanctities. It also increases the threat of all this to the rights of our people and those of our Arab and Islamic nation, to peace, and to the future of the whole region. This is all the more so in light of the declarations made by the Zionist leaders that they are sticking to this aggressive policy, including the settlement operations, thereby showing contempt for the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation, to all international resolutions, to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to the international community.

God has bought from the believers their selves and their possessions against the gift of Paradise; they fight in the way of God; they kill and are killed; that is a promise binding upon God in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Koran; and who fulfils his covenant more truly than God? So rejoice in the bargain that you have made with Him; that is the mighty triumph. God tells the truth [Koranic verse].

On this occasion, and in light of these difficult and fateful conditions surrounding us all, I address myself to you, brothers in the International Muslim Organization, and through you to all the Muslims of Europe, urging you to attain more coordination and cooperation among yourselves, to unify efforts and potentials, and to strengthen fraternal solidarity and common action so that you may always be a strong pillar for your nation in spreading its graceful civilizational and humanitarian mission.

Fatah Official on Israeli Response in Lebanon

NC2202164192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, Fatah's official in the Palestinian camps in Tyre, expects matters to become more complicated in the near future. He believes that Israeli forces will invade the south to expand the security zone to keep the Israeli settlements in upper Galilee out of the range of Katyusha rockets.

He said that he has written instructions from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to confront and participate in warding off any Israeli aggression against the south. He emphasized that Palestinians had participated to a degree in the recent battles in Kafra and Yatar and that a Palestinian fighter was slightly wounded.

He denied that the Palestinians have given Katyusha rockets to Hizballah.

Qaddumi Meets Khaddam, al-Shar' in Damascus

LD2002181292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met in Damascus yesterday evening with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Their discussion dealt with the

latest developments concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the various stages of the peace process.

Later, brother Abu-al-Lutf held a second meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the presence of the accompanying delegation, which includes brother members of the [PLO] Executive Committee. Conditions in the region and progress in the peace process in light of the Israeli attempts to abort it were discussed. The discussion also focused on Israel's oppressive measures in the occupied territories, its continuing aggression against Lebanon, and its practicing the policy of state terrorism as embodied in the attack on the motorcade of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, leading to his martyrdom and that of his family. It was emphasized that the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories is one of the strongest forms of terrorism and is a continuing act of aggression according to international law, particularly UNGA [UN General Assembly] Resolution 214 issued in 1974. Both sides agreed on the importance of the Arab sides raising these matters at the upcoming negotiations due to be held in Washington on 24 February.

PLO's 'Abbas Meets Egyptian Foreign Minister

NC2302151392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, left Cairo this afternoon following a short visit. He arrived in Cairo yesterday evening from Tunis. He held talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, on current developments in the peace talks and coordination between Egypt and the PLO during the upcoming stage.

Holds Talks With Jordan's Bin-Shakir

JN2402184492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] This evening in his office at the Prime Ministry His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir in attendance. They evaluated the peace process and looked into ways to increase coordination between Jordan and the PLO, as well as among Arab parties involved in the peace process, to promote resolutions of international legitimacy and legitimate Palestinian rights. They also reviewed the latest regional developments.

Palestinian Ambassador to Amman Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim also attended the talks.

Algeria

Council of Ministers Adopts State Action Plan

LD2402210592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council. Before the session opened a ceremony was held during which Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali introduced the members of the government to the chairman of the Higher State Council.

During today's meeting the Council of Ministers studied the government action plan and adopted it. The following main objectives are at the center of this plan: restoring the prestige of the state, eliminating the causes behind the squandering of national resources, improving ethics in the management of public affairs, guaranteeing fresh momentum for production facilities, acting to meet the basic needs of citizens, especially housing and employment; actively mobilizing national solidarity, and intensifying and redoubling action in favor of youth and the poor sections of society.

Due to the government's awareness that the imbalance marking the financial situation on the internal and external levels poses one of the great difficulties that will impede the implementation of the government action plan, the government nonetheless believes that the success of this plan depends to a large extent on continuous efforts aimed at improving the use of available resources.

Concluding the debates, the chairman of the Higher State Council emphasized the difficulties being experienced by the country and urged government members to do all they can to overcome these difficulties and to listen carefuly to society, particularly to youth and to the poor sections of the population. Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf focused in particular on the need to achieve full harmony between commitments and actions and to establish a timetable for implementing the adopted action plan. The attaining of the set objectives will be followed up and assessed periodically by the Council of Ministers.

Ghozali Details Government Action Plan

LD2402215492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali gave a news conference which ended barely 15 minutes ago. Abdelghani Touaibi reports:

[Touaibi] Absolutely. We attended a long news conference given by the prime minister, and one should note that at the Council of Ministers meeting this morning a new program for the Ghozali government was adopted, which, as he has just said, more or less gives priority to the internal and external funding section of the annual plan for 1992 and the renewal of the country's exchange reserves. In other words, everything depends on funding prospects, above all external funding which, as everyone knows, varies depending on the price of oil, on whether the external credit agreements currently under negotiation are finalized or not, and also on the capacity for restricting waste and reducing the state's rate of spending.

Physical actions [as heard] are not changed by the government program. In any event, they are not changed much—boosting employment; social housing; agriculture, particularly in the south of the country; the improved organization of companies; industrial restructuring—and of course all this is in relation to the necessary universal law of the market economy.

One should note that the plan for $9 billion of imports previously announced is confirmed, but the amount might be reduced to $7 billion if, of course, the conditions for external funding are not favorable.

We should note that the creation in the near future of a state commission which is independent of the government is advocated. It would compile a systematic economic record of what has or has not been achieved economically and socially in our country during the last decade.

In response to additional political questions asked by journalists, Mr. Ghozali said in his news conference that the government is not there to squeeze out the Islamist movement in a Muslim country, and this is how he explains the inclusion in his cabinet of people like Said Guechi, who are part of this Islamic movement but who do not agree with the use of violence as employed by certain people who are peers of Guechi, people in the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in particular. So, no dissidents for Mr. Ghozali, either from the FIS or from the Socialist Forces Front. In his opinion there are patriots who have responded to Algeria's call and who are competent, honest, and who wish to do the right thing. In Mr. Ghozali's view, a reshuffle is not a change of government because he himself is still prime minister. Radical change will certainly come about, he said. That is a promise, but by stages, and he himself is one of the biggest supporters of this, he recalled, adding: I will leave when President Boudiaf tells me to leave, and not before. [passage omitted]

Ghozali Calls for Economic 'Revival'

LD2402221592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] For the first time since the establishment of the Higher State Council, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali met the national press at a news conference at Government House this evening to explain the government's action plan for economic and social revival and to explain what made him choose the current government members. Our colleague Mohsen Slimani has just returned from the news conference and he will report live on the most important answers that the prime minister gave to journalists' questions:

[Shimani] During the news conference the prime minister explained the major bases of his action plan which, he said, is aimed at contributing in the coming months to reviving the national economy and restoring trust and tranquillity.

This plan, the prime minister said, will deal with the great economic problems: the housing problem, giving particular importance to social housing; the agricultural sector; practical measures to exploit the underground resources in the south; and the cleansing of institutions. This plan, the prime minister went on to say, is linked to the government's predictions concerning the financial situation. We do not yet know how these predictions will materialize, he said.

In this respect, the prime minister added, the problems of Algeria began in 1985 with the implementation of what Mr. Ghozali called the restructuring of institutions with the indebtedness then beginning to overwhelm the incomes of the country. What is remarkable in the prime minister's answers this time is his emphasis on the need to make economic reforms involving both the public and the private sectors, including carrying out a radical reform of the administration and putting an end to what Mr. Ghozali called the squandering in all sectors.

The other issue covered by this meeting is the reshuffle that Mr. Ghozali effected in his government. He said that there is a misunderstanding on the part of journalists concerning radical changes and the linking of this to the emergence of a new government. Mr. Ghozali said he considered the current government not a new one but rather a continuation of his former government, because a new government means a new prime minister, whether through his resignation or through his being removed, which is something that has not happened. In answer to a question concerning the situation of the Islamic Salvation Front and the bringing of one of the FIS founders, Mr. Guechi, into his government, the prime minister said that the file of this party is now in the hands of the law, which has the prerogative to decide on it. He added that many people thought that the government came out to fight the Islamic trend. The task of his government is quite the opposite, for otherwise why had not the government called for the dissolution of the Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] and the al-Nahdah movements?

As for the question of choosing dissidents from the leaderships of the FIS and the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], and their incorporation into his government, the prime minister said that the choice was made according to the criteria of competence, honesty, and the political will to join the team and respond to the invitation from Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council. Mr. Ghozali added that the appointment of Said Guechi and Hachemi Nait Djoudi did not mean that he is seeking to establish a group of dissidents of party leaderships, but the reason for choosing them was that he had many important options in common with them. At the same time, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali reiterated that he considers himself to be a dissident from the National Liberation Front because this party was stolen, as he put it, by a small group.

Political Parties React to Government Reshuffle

LD2402214292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The government reshuffle carried out by Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali last Saturday continues to evoke various reactions from the parties. Among them, the Socialist Vanguard believes that the reshuffle is retrogressive. It announced that such a move has brought Algeria and the Republic to the brink of death. It went on to say that Algeria needs a government of national unity and a broad republic opposed to fundamentalism and reaction and one capable of restoring the people's confidence and of taking charge of the nation's problems with competence and efficiency.

The Association for Unity and Action expressed surprise and condemnation at the presence of two fundamentalists in the government.

The Socialist Forces Front believes that by entrenching the regime's main officials the authorities turned their back on their promise to radically change state bodies and officials.

The Movement for Youth and Democracy expressed surprise and astonishment at the reshuffle.

The Algerian Movement for Justice and Development believes that the reshuffle is nothing but a technical cosmetic change in opposition to efforts aiming at attaining civil peace. [passage omitted]

The General Union of Algerian Workers, without expressing a direct reaction, called for a break with the policies of the past, its practices, conduct, and mentality, and also with some of its figures. The union's secretary general said in an interview with LE MATIN: Settling for superficial touches instead of the expected radical changes and brave decisions would mean assuming responsibility for erasing the pronounced signs of the return of confidence.

Further Reaction by Parties

LD2402153292 Algiers APS in English 1142 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, 24/02/92 (APS)—The general secretary of the National Liberation Front (FLN) qualified the ministerial reshuffle, officially announced on Saturday as "limited", estimating that "the opening" is very positive but constitutes "a very modest step" which can be considered by some peoples as a "facade". On another turn, the Party of the Socialist Vanguard (PAGS) expressed "great reserves towards the approach which led to the constitution of a new government". The country, the PAGS estimated, "needs a government of a wide democratic and republican union, resolutely anti-fundamentalist and anti-reactionary, capable of giving

back confidence to the people and efficiently taking in charge problems of the nation". On its turn, the Association for Unity and Action (APUA) declared "indignated" [as received] following the appointment of two "fundamentalists" within the new government.

Trade Union To Seek 'Clarifications'

LD2402112292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Benhammouda, secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA], has reacted to Saturday's ministerial reshuffle. UGTA will ask for clarifications from the prime minister. Mr. Benhammouda spoke to us yesterday. Here he is again:

[Begin Benhammouda recording] We have reservations concerning, for instance, the telecommunications sector. The post and telecommunications industry is a vital and strategic sector. We cannot undertand why an industry like posts and telecommunications should become a state secretariat. That is my first point.

Second, we do not understand whether this is an initial reshuffle or a radical change. We have a number of questions to ask. We will issue our reaction later. For the time being we are busy preparing for our anniversary on 24 February. Therefore, we did not attach full importance to this reshuffle. After 24 February we will look into this matter thoroughly and issue our reaction. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Boudiaf Addresses Union, Calls for Unity

LD2402214392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Today is the 36th anniversary of the UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers]. It was established on 24 February 1956. Today also is the 21st anniversary of the nationalization of the hydrocarbon industry. This decision gave Algeria the right to own its subterranean resources of hydrocarbons under our vast desert and all other regions of Algeria. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the Higher State Council made sure he would join the workers as they celebrated the 36th anniversary of the UGTA at the union's headquarters on 1 May Square. [passage omitted]

After the speech of the UGTA secretary general, Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf made a speech. He began by concentrating on the power of the authority and the power of the workers. As for the former, he described it as having been absent since 1962 because its leaders at that time deviated from the aims of the revolution, thus causing the gap to widen day after day until it reached the state in which we now find ourselves.

As for the workers, he described them as the backbone of Algerian society and the trade unionism in which they enrolled. It [trade unionism] is an instrument for bringing them together and for guiding them and defending their rights. [passage omitted]

Mr. Boudiaf did not conceal the gravity of the crisis. He said:

[Begin Boudiaf recording] Regrettably, today we are in a crisis; the crisis exists. Today the choice is: What will it be, as a people and as organizations, while we are confronting this challenge: Are we going to succeed or are we incapable of succeeding? I would say that we are capable if we agree among ourselves, if we merge our ideas and if we unite. Our success lies in unity. [end recording]

In his speech Mr. Boudiaf added that all factions of the people were ready in 1962 to march forward to build the society of justice under the shadow of the state under the law. But the weakness did not come from the people; it instead came from their leaders until matters reached this point. Today the time has come to put an end to this farce by closing ranks and pooling efforts, for these are the basis for arriving at the point of the lost confidence between the summit and the base.

[Begin Boudiaf recording] The summit, whatever it might be, whether it is democratic or it has 10 or 20 people, it should be close to the base. It should have dialogue because where do solutions come from? They come from the base and the summit. The summit should be composed of persons who think and who are able to manage. The base has great importance because it is the thing that knows its problems better than does anyone else. [end recording]

Mr. Boudiaf did not forget the youth in all his speeches. He addressed this appeal to them on this anniversary:

[Begin Boudiaf recording] We ask all the brothers to consider the national rally. Why? We want the people and the youth to take part in the construction process. But how they do this? They will do this the day that they become organized and the day that they become aware that they have a role to play in this nation. [words indistinct]. [end recording]

These were the most important points in the speech of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the UGTA and the 21st anniversary of the nationalization of the hydrocarbon industry.

Moudjahidin Council Meets To Assess Developments

State Council Member Addresses Session

LD2202143592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Nacera Bouzaid on proceedings of the National Council of the National Organization of Moudjahidin at the Palais des Nation in Club des Pins on 22 February]

[Text] This session is being held to examine only one topic: the current stage through which the country is passing and the outlook for future action. The proceedings began around 1100 [1000 GMT] under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi, secretary general of the moudjahidin organization and member of the Higher State Council. As soon as the proceedings began the session's secretariat was elected. It included Said Abadou, Mahmoud Aissa Bey, Ziyani Arezgui, and Zohra Grab.

Kafi, chairman of the session, made an address which he began by welcoming the return of moudjahid Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, to the homeland and saying that he hoped that circumstances which obliged moudjahidin to live in exile would end. Kafi analyzed at length the country's general situation since independence, asserting that it was characterized by the marginalization and the dispersal of the revolutionary vanguard which was excluded from power, cut off from society, and barred from direct participation in the making of a national decision, a matter which enabled what he called opportunists to creep into sensitive political and administrative apparatuses. He went on to say that such a situation led to the establishment of a bureaucratic state whose main characteristics were corruption, nepotism, and opportunism, a matter which brought about an imbalance in favor of the street [as heard] and a lack of trust between the state and the people, who were exposed to political manipulation. Given such a situation, Kafi asked the moudjahidin organization to overcome its isolation and marginalization in order to shoulder its responsibilities via-a-vis the main national topics, apart from narrow partisanship, other political inclinations with circumstantial expediency and harmful struggles for power, and so that it could embrace all moudjahidin, the sons of the martyrs and the rest of the nationalist and revolutionary elements which have been marginalized and dispersed.

The secretary general of the moudjahidin organization also suggested that the course of the regime should be rectified in such a way that it would regain its harmony with the principles of the glorious November Revolution, with the people's aspirations and future needs, as well as to prevent the country from falling into dangerous spots and to keep it safe from acts of blackmail and foreign economic and financial pressures by restoring power to its popular bases. Kafi concluded his address by denouncing all sorts of violence and extremism and the use of weapons for political ends and the seizure of power.

The emergency session of the national council of the moudjahidin organization received a message from Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf in which he extended his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, emphasizing anew the need for the moujahidin's participation, in the same manner as on 1 November 1954 for the country's liberation, in the process of the country's building and the sought after goals in this period, particularly the reconsecration of the state's authority, the reactivation of the national economy upon sound bases, and enabling the youth to play a vital role in this decisive stage. The Higher State Council chairman added in his message that such aims cannot be achieved save through the existence of trust between the regime and the people and without efforts to look after society, particularly the downtrodden.

Boudiaf Sends Message

LD2302160592 Algiers APS in English 1021 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, 23/02/92 (APS)—The president of the Higher State Committee (HCE) [as received] called in a message addressed to the national council of the National Organization of Moudjahidin, met in an extraordinary session since Saturday in Algiers, moudjahidin "to bring their valorous contribution with the same faithfulness to this step of change and reconstruction by the sides of the other living forces of the nation." [sentence as received]

Boudiaf recalled in this message to moudjahidin, "the main urgent tasks to which they have to contribute notably the consecration of the respect of the state, a necessary condition for any action of reconstruction and relaunch of the economy on healthy bases and with new potentialities, the taking in charge of youth and its mobilization so as it can play a dynamic part in this decisive step."

He also put a stress on the "necessity to reestablish confidence between the people and responsibilities of all the institutions of the country and in different sectors of the national activity," pointing out that "everybody is to consider itself as mobilized for the safeguard of the country and we all have to participate to the struggle to consecrate the respect of the state and reestablish confidence among the people whose unity is to be preserved as it was on 1954 during the liberation struggle."

Speakers Oppose Government Reshuffle

LD2302134892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The National Council of the National Organization of Moudjahidin resumed its meetings today. A number of speeches took place at this morning's session. For more details, here is a report from the radio team at the conference:

[Begin correspondent Nacera Bouzaid recording] Among the speakers in this morning's session were some who opposed the new cabinet reshuffle, saying that it did not sever the present from the past. As some of the speakers said, the new cabinet was an extension of the activities of some who had betrayed the principles of the November Revolution.

In this context, another speaker called for the formation of judicial police [shurtat qada'iyah] to investigate the

crimes of war and strip the traitors of their civil rights and bring them to book, in order to purge the national administration.

He also called for the dissolution of the municipal and district councils and replacing them with provisional executive councils because the elections [to these councils] were held under unfavorable conditions.

Another point raised by one of the speakers during the morning session deals with the advance of the francophone current. The speaker called for strict enforcement of the constitutional laws to face this current with the spread of the use of the Arabic language in order to safeguard the Arab and Islamic principles of the November Revolution.

The speaker also strongly denounced the notion of permitting Christian and Jewish minorities in the country to form their own parties in our country.

These were the most important points raised during the morning session of the second day of the extraordinary session of the national council of the veterans organization.

It remains to be said that the morning meeting has been adjourned and will reconvene in the afternoon.

This is Nacera Bouzaid from the Palais des Nations. [end recording]

Veterans Leader Calls for National Rally

LD2402121892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Ali Kafi, secretary general of the National Organization of Moudjahidin, has stated that the aim behind the organizing of a national rally was to create a national program that would act as a catalyst for the rallying of all active Algerian forces and all sincere patriots. Ali Kafi was speaking during a brief news conference he held yesterday following the conclusion of the veterans organization's national council meetings.

He added that this national rally would welcome anyone wishing to join it provided that he resigns from the party to which he belongs, and he pointed out that contacts will be held with all the active forces in the field.

Police Seal Off Militant Algiers 'Stronghold'

NC2502111492 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Algiers, Feb 25 (AFP)—Security forces Tuesday morning sealed off an Algiers suburb that is a stronghold of the so-called Afghans, Muslim militants blamed for killing nine policemen in recent bloody attacks.

Soldiers in camouflage suits and armed with Kalashnikov rifles joined scores of gendarmes in taking up positions for more than a kilometer along the main road of Beni Mered District, 20 kilometers (about 12 miles) east of Algiers.

The security forces were stopping people for identification and making spot checks on drivers. More forces could be seen stationed in a nearby forest and in fields around the suburb.

It was not immediately known why the operation was launched.

The Afghans, militant supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) who are Algerian veterans of the war in Afghanistan, have carried out a string of attacks against security forces to counter a crackdown on the FIS.

They are blamed for killing nine policemen since the start of February. [passage omitted]

Setif Council Closes University Due to Unrest

LD2502094592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Setif University Council has decided to suspend classes and all university activities until next Sunday following the tension that prevailed at the university this week. [passage omitted]

As for the situation at some universities, the National League of Algerian Students has called on all students to respect the will of the majority and put the higher interest of students above narrow, transient, and limited interests.

The league, in a statement delivered to APS, said that it was surprised to hear the news of the closure of Blida University and the intervention of the security forces at Bab Ezzouar University and the detention of scores of students.

Leader of Armed Gang Reportedly Arrested

LD2402091492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] LE MATIN reported in this morning's edition that the so-called Tayeb el-Afghani, leader of the armed group that attacked an Army barracks in Guemar at the end of last November, has been arrested at Oued Souf, according to a well-informed source cited by LE MATIN.

Rights League Urges End to 'Arbitrary' Arrests

LD2402121292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights issued a statement yesterday, extracts of which have been published by the AL-KHABAR newspaper. The league, which is headed by Ali Yahia Abdenur, called on the authorities to stop arbitrary arrests, close

down security centers, return detainees to their families, release all political detainees, and abolish the emergency laws.

It also called on the civilian community to organize a solidarity network to aid the victims and help their families. The league believes that the only way out of the present crisis is a return to dialogue among all the national forces represented in the national arena to spare the country from plunging into crisis.

Ghozali Prepared To Testify at FIS Trial

LD2502095492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has said that if necessary he will appear before the Blida military court to give evidence in the case of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders who have been detained since last June.

Mr. Ghozali made his remarks during a news conference he held (?yesterday) at government headquarters.

Boudiaf Calls for Solution to Sahara Issue

LD2402183692 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Rabat, 24 Feb (MAP)—Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council [words indistinct] consensus among the Algerian leadership to resolve the question of the Sahara with maximum [word indistinct] and denied that armed elements may have infiltrated Moroccan territory from Algerian territory. He said: "We do not supply weapons to anyone and will not do so in the future."

In an interview with the Moroccan AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI and published today, Monday, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf explained that his country has decided to abandon totally the policy of putting up obstacles, and he said that we are against violence inside Algeria and we refuse to use it against our neighbors.

He explained that he has examined the question of the Sahara with "all decisionmakers and held wide consultations with all the brothers connected to the subject and with those who have something to say about it." He said: "We now fully agree on the need to solve this problem quickly. It poisons Algerian-Moroccan relations and impedes the course of peace and harmony in North Africa."

He added that there is agreement among decisionmakers in "Algeria to solve this problem quickly and decisively and that a path to deal with the problem of refugees and armed men" will be examined soon.

Mr. Boudiaf emphasized that he recently conveyed this Algerian position to the delegate of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] mercenaries whom he did not mention by name but did refer to in the passive third-person form.

Incidentally, he pointed out that he is fully aware of the importance of peace and harmony between Algeria and Morocco with regard to the future of North Africa, for he has spent about one-third of his life in Morocco, which he described as "his second homeland."

In the course of his talk on the Arab Maghreb Union, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf said that building the edifice of that union "will be among the priorities of Algeria's foreign policy in the regional field and that the foremost of our concerns will be to achieve a common language with the Europeans and with others in order to defend our interests."

He said that the foundations of that unity already exist as represented in geography, history, and the common blood spilled on the soil of the Arab Maghreb countries. He added in this respect: "We would be betraying our martyrs who died in the north of Constantine and in the middle Atlas Mountains during the revolt of 20 August 1955 if we do not achieve unity and peace among our countries."

He considers the attainment of peace, harmony, and cooperation among the Arab Maghreb countries as "objectives, the responsiblity of which will be shouldered by future generations." He emphasized that he will do his utmost to provide the objective conditions necessary to achieve unity and that he will strive to spread an atmosphere of rapprochement, brotherhood, and cooperation among the countries of the region. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks on Kuwaiti TV, Affirms Arab Unity

NC2302213292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt's principled stand has not and will not change at all. This stand is to strike at aggression and oppose any usurper.

In a congratulatory speech he delivered on Kuwaiti television this evening, on the occasion of the first anniversary of Kuwait's liberation from the Iraqi aggression and celebration of the country's national day, President Mubarak said that one should not remain quiet or accept the results and negative repercussions of the Iraqi invasion.

President Mubarak pointed out his repeated attempts and the huge effort he exerted from the beginning of the Gulf crisis to protect the Kuwaiti and Iraqi people from the results of this war.

President Mubarak said he held many contacts on Arab and international levels. He also addressed many calls to

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to avert the dangers of this destructive war, "but the brothers in Iraq did not respond to these calls."

President Mubarak affirmed the importance of the unity and solidarity of the Arab nation.

He said he hoped from the bottom of his heart that circumstances would not reach the state they did after 2 August 1990. He pointed out that he never once believed one Arab country would occupy another.

He added that Egypt took the stand alongside justice and legitimacy despite its membership in the Arab Cooperation Council along with Iraq, Jordan, and the Republic of Yemen.

He went on: The people of Egypt, without exception, stand alongside justice and legitimacy. The Iraqi people are now going through very difficult circumstances. But we have done everything possible in this field.

President Mubarak conveyed the Egyptian people's congratulations to the Kuwaiti Government, people, and amir on the return of their land from the usurper, and the restoration of legitimacy. He expressed his hope that love and friendship will return and that things will be resolved in a way that will bring goodwill to the Arab nation.

Musa Interviewed on Sudan, Current Issues

NC2302110792 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 21 Feb 92 pp 14-17, 68-69

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Dr. Salwa Abu-Si'dah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Si'dah] Let us start our interview with the latest crisis in Egyptian-Sudanese relations and the latest, hottest escalation in the past few days. What do you have to say about the causes of tension and escalation between the two countries?

[Musa] I do not believe that the recent days were the hottest days of the crisis in our relations, because we received Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih in Cairo. Regarding the two countries' relations, there is a certain logic that defines our view. First, Egypt and Sudan are neighboring countries with close historical ties. There is, consequently, a uniqueness in their relations that makes them different from any other, regardless of the closeness in other relations. The basic uniqueness is the harmony between the two peoples.

[Abu-Si'dah] Then how did the tension begin and what are its causes?

[Musa] It began with the difference of stands vis-a-vis the situation in the Arab world and what is going on in the world around us. The countries adopted different stands in confronting the Gulf crisis, thus exposing trends and inclinations. Egypt opposed the aggression against an Arab country and called for the restoration of that country's sovereignty, while Sudanese policy saw nothing in this aggression to bother it. Therefore, the two stands differed at the regional level.

Second, we are now witnessing a new world movement that has created other confrontations and interaction between the Eastern world, which used to be called the communist bloc, and the Western world. A phase of large-scale dialogue about all aspects of ideas and life has started. A new stage has begun, which completely shook both the communist-socialist intellect, which was defeated, and the liberal intellect.

We in Egypt are trying to give the Arab nation, and even the whole Third World, a part in drawing up this new world and participate in the ongoing debates on this new world's principles, conditions, and international relationships. It behooves us, we who constitute a group that lives in one important area and share a common heritage, to move toward contributing to this world debate so that we may discuss the issues of weapons, development, and environment.

We must prepare Arab world conditions and public opinion to enter into the new world arena. We believe there is no intellectual or religious reason why we should be isolated. We want our part of the world to be taken seriously and to contribute to this new world, not by submitting and acquiescing to it but by presenting our ideas, heritage, and culture. This demands our intellectual unity, especially after Iraq's aggression, which is the worst event in modern Arab history. It is absolutely baseless and irrational to exploit pan-Arabism or religion to justify Saddam Husayn's action, or to believe that our Islamic religion necessarily leads to confrontation and clashes. Islam needs to be presented as a religion of tolerance, a religion for all ages with which we transition from one century to another. It appears that we, the Arab countries, have not united in this intellectual framework. This applies to Sudan. This matter calls for the welding of this intellectual framework between us as Arab countries.

[Abu-Si'dah] Does this not require that there should always be a direct bilateral dialogue with all Arab parties, so that matters among these parties are not allowed to worsen, as they did between us and Sudan? Things between us have reached the point where it is being said Sudan is protecting and sheltering terrorists and that preparations are underway to establish revolutionary guards. Once before this we heard that Sudan was sheltering 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman [spiritual leader of Jihad Organization in Egypt]. Will we leave all these matters without discussing them with Sudan, a country which provides strategic depth for Egypt?

[Musa] I started my statement by making a general assessment of the current stage we are going through both at the regional and international levels. But now you are focusing on Sudan in particular. I say specifically that we are not the ones who disseminated these reports about the terrorists in Sudan or about the formation of

new revolutionary guards. Someone else did, and this influences our views on what is happening in Sudan. If these reports are true, then it is serious. If not, then there is no problem. The charges are made by several other countries; some speak of intervention by some parties in Sudanese internal affairs, or assisting the revolutionaries to gain power. This is what is being said, but Egypt is not saying or disseminating this. This is what Sudan is being accused of by several quarters. If it is true, that is a different story.

[Abu-Si'dah] What is the role of Egyptian diplomacy in ascertaining this?

[Musa] Major General al-Zubayr came to Cairo and met with President Mubarak. We also met and had a discussion at the Foreign Ministry.

[Abu-Si'dah] It is good to have high-level meetings and to open the file of differences between us and Sudan, but my question is: What is Egyptian diplomacy's views on future moves to end these delicate matters and differences, what was the result of the discussions with Lt. Gen. al-Zubayr, and what were the points of agreement and disagreement?

[Musa] Of course, we had several discussions on most of the pending issues. It is natural to expect issues or points of difference between us. These differences could be over policy itself or over handling certain priorities. But in the end, I prefer not to get into the details of the talks, because it is not in our common interests to concentrate on specific points. We are now talking about a general concept and it serves no purpose to talk through the media about specific points of difference or specific accusations. Now that Lt. Gen. al-Zubayr has been with us here in Cairo, let us leave things to take their current course, and we all wish it success.

[Abu-Si'dah] Then let us concentrate on what was agreed upon.

[Musa] Bilateral cooperation has always existed and never stopped in the fields of health, education, and irrigation. All these aspects of bilateral cooperation were discussed.

[Abu-Si'dah] What about the differences?

[Musa] They are political differences, different viewpoints. There are queries about what you have mentioned in your previous questions, which are things we cannot approve of, if true. If they are not true, then there are no differences.

[Abu-Si'dah] How could you make sure they are true or not?

[Musa] This can be done in more than one way. We have direct relations, we have an active embassy in Sudan and they have an embassy in Cairo, and the exchange of visits never stops. Last month a Sudanese political figure visited Cairo and vice versa. So the matter was never a "dialogue among the deaf." The exchange of visits has always existed and the visits by technical delegations at the commercial, financial, medicinal, and water levels never stop.

[Abu-Si'dah] Regarding the issue of water and the regional and international water shortage, is there any more talk in Sudan about the 1959 water agreement, and about Egypt getting more than its share of the distributed water?

[Musa] Who has the right to determine that Egypt is getting more or less than its share? I do not take such talk seriously. I do not believe that this is part of the problem because, basically, this subject has not been raised.

[Abu-Si'dah] During the recent talks, did you discuss the issue of Jonglei Canal, in view of its importance in the increasing demand for water, before the water crisis worsens?

[Musa] This canal is located in the south. Therefore, the government in Khartoum cannot be asked why this canal has not yet been constructed, because the government itself is concerned with that. The construction of the canal is linked with the situation in the south, and when the situation there calms down. As a fraternal state to Sudan, the unity of Sudan and its people concerns us and it is in our interest to see an end to the problem of the south.

[Abu-Si'dah] When the crisis escalated recently, it was reiterated that Egypt provided aid to the forces in the south. What is your comment on this?

[Musa] This is untrue. There are those who reiterate that, but it is completely untrue. The basis of our policy is to preserve Sudan's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty. This is indisputable and absolute.

Why "Hala'ib" Now?

[Abu-Si'dah] What is your comment on raising the Hala'ib issue now?

[Musa] Ask those who raised it.

[Abu-Si'dah] Was the Egyptian action due to Sudan's ratification of an oil prospecting agreement with a Canadian company?

[Musa] There are administrative borders and political borders. If there were queries or problems concerning administration or oil, an understanding should have been reached between the two countries, without the taking of unilateral action.

[Abu-Si'dah] Then Egyptian diplomacy blames the Sudanese initiative in granting a petroleum company a concession to prospect for oil in this area, which is inside Egypt's political borders. But from Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr's statements in Cairo, we understood that Sudan was right in its behavior and that the issue will be resolved in a civilized manner. What did he mean by that?

[Musa] Do not ask or request that I interpret Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr's statements. The issue, however, needs to be resolved in a civilized manner and according to principles.

[Abu-Si'dah] What are these principles according to Egyptian diplomacy?

[Musa] Egypt's principles state that there are well-known and clearly defined political borders.

[Abu Si'dah] What is the disagreement about if there are bilateral agreements, such as the 1902 agreement and others, that organize affairs and the administrative borders?

[Musa] You can say what you want about this issue. What concerns me here is that as long as Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr has stated that the issue will be resolved between us in a civilized manner, I do not want to speak about the issue or any details concerning it to the press. Let the matter be resolved in a civilized way as al-Zubayr said. By this I mean that it must be resolved on sound foundations that take historical and legal facts into account.

[Abu-Si'dah] Does this mean that you support the formation of a committee that might refer the issue to international arbitration?

[Musa] Absolutely not. There is no room here for arbitration committees. We are speaking about an issue over which we ourselves can consult.

[Abu-Si'dah] What then, is the task of the joint committee that was formed to discuss unresolved issues between the two countries?

[Musa] Its task is to carry out consultations, explain matters, maintain a calm atmosphere, and restore the legal status of the area in question. Because Hala'ib is an area adjacent to the Egyptian-Sudanese border, it is natural there should be some intermingling on the basis of the brotherhood between the two peoples and the movements of the tribes. Hence there are mutual interests, and consequently, some recent measures should not have been taken.

[Abu-Si'dah] Does this mean that, in accordance with recent talks, oil drilling and other mining operations in search of phosphate, for example, have stopped?

[Musa] I have no answer to this now because these details do not serve the two countries' mutual interests.

[Abu-Si'dah] Egypt has long based its foreign policy on three fronts: Arab, Islamic, and African. But what is happening around us in Africa makes us wonder: Is the Egyptian role somehow absent, causing other countries to make active moves toward the African desert? What is the foreign minister's comment on such reports?

[Musa] We have heard such talk, and what we are saying and repeating is that President Mubarak recently visited five African countries. This is activity on the state's highest level. I will make an official visit to Addis Ababa next week. I will then chair the OAU ministerial council's meeting. Three Egyptian committees are due to hold joint meetings with Cameroon, Gabon, and Niger. The activity continues. [passage omitted]

Libya and the Expected Blow

[Abu-Si'dah] If we move to our efforts to resolve the current Libyan crisis, concerning the bombing of the plane, where has our intervention and our dialogue with the American side gone?

[Musa] In this issue, there is no final stage for the dialogue; there are stages. Egyptian efforts in this regard are based on two principles: First, preventing any military action against Libya and attempting to resolve the issue within the framework of international legitimacy. Second, protecting Libya.

At the same time, the concept guiding our actions must be clear from the beginning. The downing of a civilian plane carrying passengers is inhuman, and no civilized person can condone it. There is no doubt about that. At the same time, we do not accept any Arab or Arab regime being branded as terrorist. All the Arab regimes, especially those which are accused of this, should exonerate themselves and we should help them do this.

[Abu-Si'dah] Was there any Egyptian-Libyan contact on this issue while the Egypt was holding a dialogue with America on this same matter?

[Musa] We were holding contacts with the two parties. We are opposed to terrorism and averse to branding Arabs as terrorists. Meanwhile, we act to protect Libya and the Libyan people, and Libya's right to sovereignty. We intervened strongly to prevent the use of the military option against Libya. The question now is to take international legitimacy into consideration and to try those accused of this despicable crime.

Work now is concentrated in the Security Council. The last step taken was the dispatch of an envoy of the UN secretary general to Libya. Libya gave definitive responses and the UN envoy presented the Libyan response to the secretary general. In its response, Libya declared its approval of handing over the two defendants to France. A mechanism for implementing this is now being discussed in the Security Council. At this moment (Thursday evening), the UN secretary general has summoned the five permanent members of the Security Council for consultations on this matter. We do not know what the outcome of this meeting will be.

[Abu-Si'dah] What is the latest American stand?

[Musa] In our dialogue with the Americans, we always try to prevent any military action against Libya and to keep the issue within the framework of dialogue and diplomatic contacts, in order to achieve the best solution that will protect the Libyan right and resolutely confront terrorism.

[Abu-Si'dah] What will the Egyptian stand be if a decision is made to take action, like that against Iraq?

[Musa] We will cross that bridge when we come to it; we will take a stand when this happens. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Si'dah] What about the results of the bilateral talks, of which three sessions have so far been held?

[Musa] Thus far, these negotiations have not borne fruit or achieved anything, because as you are aware, Israel has not yet recognized the principle of land for peace. Nevertheless, it approved negotiating on the basis of Resolution 242. Whichever way Israel interprets it, this resolution clearly stipulates that the acquisition of land by force is impermissible. Israel cannot find a way out of this.

[Abu-Si'dah] What is your view of the bilateral negotiations process, regarding the continuous Israeli intransigence?

[Musa] Thus far, the bilateral negotiations have not produced any real results. At some stage, however, we took the view that the Israeli intransigence could be a negotiating stance and that such a stance is for a limited time and cannot continue, after which the picture will become clear. We are waiting for the next round of talks on 24 February. The real Israeli stand will then become clear to us: Whether it will persist with its evasive tactics with regard to the venue for the negotiations, or the members of the [Palestinian] delegation or their number. If it does that, it would mean that Israel is not serious at all. It is almost six months since the Madrid conference was held, and this is an extremely bad sign. [passage omitted].

[Abu-Si'dah] In your view, are there specific time limits or periods for the negotiations?

[Musa] A specific time limit cannot be set. We got back all of Sinai after President al-Sadat proposed the principle of land in return for peace. But we got back Tabah 11 years later, in 1988.

Here I am concerned with the Syrians and the Golan Heights. As for the Palestinians, the agreement is clear: The bilateral negotiations are concerned only with the question of autonomy, the withdrawal of forces, and Palestinian administrative authorities. It is a transitional stage, not the final one. It does not talk about sovereignty or withdrawal. Something is expected to materialize from these bilateral talks within one year. If a year passes without achieving anything tangible, then the talks will be futile and useless. But the international support, the good U.S. stand, and the Arab stand—regardless of some differences—agree on one specific thing. [not further specified] The Moscow talks are evidence of this. The other matter is the question of territories. If Israel continues to build settlements, then this would be a stab in the heart of the peace process.

The other question concerning the territories is the issue of Jerusalem. One opinion advocated that Jerusalem be left for a subsequent stage. But we stressed the need to raise it now because Israel is acting daily to Judaize, settle, and annex. If we defer the issue to a subsequent stage, then the Israeli measures in Jerusalem must stop completely, otherwise this would be mere words meant to deceive the Arabs, and that is unacceptable. As to the fears that there will be turmoil if we raise the issue of Jerusalem now, well, the world is already in turmoil over the issues of the settlements, withdrawal from the Golan, and autonomy. Why rule out Jerusalem? All the issues must be raised at the table right from the start to show that we are serious.

[Abu-Si'dah] Do you believe that the U.S. and Israeli elections will be a new excuse or pretext to avoid serious negotiations in the coming stage?

[Musa] The Israeli elections are normal. It is not right to say that Israel has brought the date of the elections forward and therefore it must be condemned. Why the condemnation? This is an internal affair within the framework of a democratic process involving all its parties. This matter concerns them. Therefore, the process of outbidding is expected to last from now until June. I have already repeatedly warned the Israelis themselves against persisting in some of their statements, such as Shamir's recent statement about Greater Israel, the statements that they are not bound by any agreement, and Netanyahu's recent statement about dividing the Arab territories into four quarters, with each one moving separately from the stage of occupation to the stage of autonomy.

Through this interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, I call on Israeli officials, from Netanyahu "and above," not to be carried away by the election atmosphere, as this would affect whatever is left of Israel's credibility in the peace process.

As for the United States, I do not see any direct effect on the peace process, although they are talking heatedly about the Israeli loans. I hope so, especially as the elections campaign has in fact started.

[Abu-Si'dah] Do you believe that the Palestinians' demand to return to direct dialogue with the United States is still important, even after the start of the bilateral talks?

[Musa] The Palestinian-American dialogue is continuing through Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. This dialogue is with Baker personally. It is a normal dialogue. They are not separate from the Palestinian entity as a whole, or from the Palestinian leadership. I do not like to repeat cliches. There is real contact now.

[Abu-Si'dah] You have explained the Egyptian views on the bilateral and multilateral levels. Don't you think that the absence of Syria and Lebanon had a negative effect? And how wide are our views with Syria in this regard?

[Musa] Syria's logic is sound. It says that if Israel does not make concessions and cooperate in the bilateral

talks, then Syria should not be expected to join the multilateral talks. If we go back to the Arab statements, we will find that all the Arab delegations were committed to same logic and backed the Syrian stand. In fact, all the other statements, with the exception of the Israeli one, pursued the same line; namely, that Israel will not take unless it gives. Giving and taking will be made by both sides at the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

We would have liked Syria to be present in Moscow, because this would have served our viewpoint and the Arab viewpoint more than its absence did. So there are no differences. It is only a matter of viewpoints, nothing more, over the question of attending or not attending, and not over the gist of the Syrian stand. Egypt will not abandon the principle of land for peace, and this is what we all will work to achieve through negotiations for all the Arab brothers.

[Abu-Si'dah] Several committees were formed in Moscow to deal with the issues of disarmament, water, environment, economic development, and refugees. Could you tell us about the Egyptian views on the two most important files; namely, the questions of water and disarmament?

[Musa] First of all, don't limit me to just two files. The water file cannot be opened in the absence of Syria, because there are rivers that flow through Syria. So when Syria returns to the multilateral talks, this file can be opened. As for the refugees file, it is inconceivable to discuss it without the presence of a Palestinian representative from outside the occupied territories, and from the refugees themselves. This is only natural; after all, what is there to be discussed without them? As for any other topics or specific projects, they cannot be discussed unless we are quite certain all parties accept negotiations on the basis of land for peace. In our statement in Moscow, we emphasized that the multilateral talks are part of the peace process, and since the peace process is based on the land-for-peace principle, then the negotiations also are based on the same principle. So, all files are connected to the land-for-peace principle.

[Abu-Si'dah] What about the disarmament file?

[Musa] We are ready now for the disarmament file, and our position on it is based on two things: The equal treatment of all the region's countries, which means that no country should receive exceptional treatment; and viewing the region's security as one integral whole, and not merely from the perspective of Israel's security. If we discuss nuclear disarmament, then it must apply to all the countries in the region, and the same goes for the chemical and other nonconventional weapons. So disarmament must be applied as a whole, without one of the parties putting emphasis on a certain weapon or rocket.

[Abu-Si'dah] Does this mean the entire nuclear arsenal now in Israel's possession will be required to be completely eliminated, as is now the case with Iraq?

[Musa] Why not? According to the proposals we made in July, Egypt does not accept any exceptions in this regard. The overall disarmament will have to be imposed on everyone, and the elimination will have to apply to all weapons of all parties.

[Abu-Si'dah] How? Can Israel possibly accept this?

[Musa] Do not forget that what we are saying is part of a comprehensive peace. All these measures that we will agree upon will be put into effect after peace is established. They will be applied in a different atmosphere, not that of war. Therefore, as long as the causes for war among neighboring countries no longer exist, what is the use of the nuclear bomb? We are talking about relations of peace, not confrontation.

[Abu-Si'dah] Has Egyptian diplomacy taken into account the possibility that the Palestinians might, at some stage, withdraw from the peace process if Israeli intransigence continues?

[Musa] In my opinion, the Palestinians must push the peace process as far as they can and as rapidly as possible, because they will lose if it stops. They have no choice. But if the peace process fails, Israel will be absolutely wrong to imagine that it has taken permanent hold of the land. Failure means absolute anarchy in the entire region, and that is unacceptable. Inasmuch as the Arabs have no other option, Israel also has no alternative.

[Abu-Si'dah] Did you form this view on the basis of Israel's changing stature and role and its usefulness to U.S. world strategy in the post-Gulf war era?

[Musa] I do not want to discuss such matters, because it is difficult to imagine that strategies can change overnight, because the USSR has collapsed. Nevertheless, I believe that Israel will not continue to hold on to the occupied territories. The current situation and the building of settlements cannot continue. Israel must cooperate in the peace process. As to the argument that the Arabs have no other options, we can say that Israel also has no other options.

[Abu-Si'dah] What about our future moves toward the Islamic republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]? Has our role been limited to the Egyptian delegation's recent visit to those republics? How will we proceed, especially as both Iran and Turkey have numerous effective mechanisms in this connection?

[Musa] How? We have sent more than one religious, cultural, and trade mission to those republics. I will visit those republics at the end of Ramadan [late March-early April]. We will receive the presidents, prime ministers, and foreign ministers of several of those republics in Cairo. As for Turkey's moves, these are natural because it is a neighboring country. Iran's moves follow its policies and logic. And why not? I am not here arguing with anyone. Our role is well known. No matter how

quickly the others move, they will not make additional gains in this field. We must not be too sensitive about these moves.

[Abu-Si'dah] While Iran's activity is in line with its continuing views on exporting the revolution and establishing a greater Islamic state, do you not believe that Turkey's moves serve Western interests, notably U.S. interests?

[Musa] Let us forget such talk. It belongs to an earlier time. What is worrying you? A few days ago the West sent 45 planes carrying relief aid to the new CIS republics. It is not necessary for us to move as quickly as another state merely because that state moved swiftly. We are not worried about these moves because the roles of Egypt and al-Azhar [Institute] cannot be played down. Our market knowledge of those republics goes back a long time. All this is being used and will be used for the good of our relationship with the new Islamic republics.

[Abu-Si'dah] Let us move to the issue of pan-Arab security, particularly Gulf security. We heard a few days ago about the Kuwaiti-British treaty [mu'ahadah] in which Kuwait—according to reports—insisted on excluding any Syrian or Egyptian military presence. How true is this? What about the Damascus Declaration?

[Musa] Did the agreement [ittifaqiyah] reject such a presence? All we have are mere radio or press reports and analyses. The issue is Kuwait's concern. Kuwait is experiencing the shock caused by the Iraqi invasion, and is trying to secure itself as much as possible. We are offering such security in an Arab framework. If they want to add to it as much as they can, this is their concern. We will discuss security with them in detail within the Damascus Declaration's framework at a meeting in Doha in April. Whether these agreements downplay the Damascus Declaration or not will be discussed in April.

[Abu-Si'dah] Is toppling Saddam Husayn's regime in Iraq still an objective?

[Musa] We have nothing to do with the toppling of any Arab regime. Who rules Iraq is the concern of the Iraqi people.

Musa Visits Ethiopia

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For Ethiopian and Egyptian reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Ethiopia, including reports on his talks with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin and President Meles Zenawi, please see the East Africa and Inter-African sections of the 24 February Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Libyan Justice Secretary Arrives in Cairo

NC2302211492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1839 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice, arrived in Cairo this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Justice Minister Faruq Sayf al-Nasr and Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, Libyan general coordinator for Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Qadhdhaf al-Damm stated that Bakkar's visit to Egypt comes within the framework of efforts to improve cooperation and integration between the two countries—something that will benefit the two fraternal peoples.

Asked whether the purpose of the visit is to discuss arrangements for the trial of the two Libyans accused of bombing the American airliner, he said that this subject is considered one of the private issues [al-mawdu'at al-khassah] between Egypt and Libya.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2302212392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2052 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—This evening, President Husni Mubarak received Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice, who arrived in Cairo earlier today carrying a message to President Mubarak from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator of Libyan-Egyptian relations.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2402182192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1417 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice, left Cairo this afternoon after a two-day visit, during which he handed President Husni Mubarak a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs.

Newspaper Attacks Quayle Statements on Israel

NC2502091792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has denounced the statements made by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, in which he voiced his full backing for Israel as the United States' strategic ally and the sole democracy in the Middle East region.

In its Tuesday commentary, the newspaper notes that it is truly no exaggeration to call the United States a country of marvels and extraordinary fashions. The paper adds that these strange statements coincided with

the U.S. State Department's preparations for a new round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington. The paper points out that the U.S. Vice President has shown his complete ignorance of the developments that have taken place in the world; most importantly, the demise of the second superpower that was confronting the United States. The paper says that with this demise, the United States no longer needs a strategic ally, the pretext used by former U.S. presidents to justify support for Israel in all its aggressive stands, and showering it with aid.

The paper goes on to say that the question of Israel being the sole democracy in the Middle East, something that Israel's proponents in the United States and Israel used to brag about, has become a subject of ridicule and mockery, considering Israel's oppressive measures and its failure to comply with the UN and international legitimacy's resolutions.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by saying that Dan Quayle himself, through his ignorance of international political changes, has advanced proof that he does not qualify as U.S. vice president. The paper believes that the hidden reasons for Quayle's statements at this particular time will not remain so for long.

Israelis Urged To 'Reevaluate Their Calculations'

NC2202155892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Using Force To Impose a Fait Accompli Will Not Provide Israel With Peace and Security"]

[Text] Israel's rulers are totally mistaken if they believe that force, belligerence, and attempts to impose a fait accompli on others can establish security, stability, and peace for Israel's people; especially since the Gulf experience is still fresh in our minds and there is a new world order being set up based on condemning the cold war, destroying all types of nuclear weapons and missiles, establishing new international relations on the basis of understanding, and solving all international disputes through negotiation.

Perhaps Israel's rulers have forgotten that after almost 45 years and numerous wars with the Arabs, they have not succeeded in establishing peace and security for one simple reason: They do not believe in it and have kept their old ideas since Israel was established. So why don't Israel's rulers search their souls, for the sake of their people and all the people of the region, or for the sake of peace itself, which is considered a nobler goal requiring huge sacrifices by both parties.

Perhaps what pushes us to make this introduction is the recent bestial aggression Israeli forces carried out on southern Lebanese villages, claiming the lives of many innocent Lebanese civilians. After that, the Israeli forces withdrew to their positions in the security strip in southern Lebanon. Some claim that this attack is a response to a fedayeen operation against Israel from southern Lebanon. The answer to that is simple. It is. Violence by Israel against Lebanese citizens or Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories begets greater violence, especially since these people feel their rights have been usurped.

It is strange that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he carried out these military operations to punish the terrorists. What do we then call what Israel did in southern Lebanon, against innocent civilians and inside the borders of an independent state, a strip of whose territory Israel still occupies under the pretext of protecting its security? In fact, Shamir stands before the whole world issuing threats and rejecting condemnation of this crime. He also rejects the international community's demands to necessarily practice self-control to protect the peace process. He then proceeds to defy the whole world and says that he will continue to build settlements until the very end.

When Israel's rulers carried out their aggression—which will not be the last of its kind on the villages in southern Lebanon—in this bestial and appalling manner, their major objective was to destroy the U.S.-led peace process from the very root. It is unreasonable for this aggression to take place just a few days before the new round of Washington bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel. In addition, Israel deliberately detained two members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Do these indications, as well as earlier behavior by Israel's rulers, reveal that they truly want to realize peace with the Arabs? Israel's objective was to provoke the Arabs into withdrawing from the new round that starts in Washington on Monday. Israel would thereby gain more time to maneuver and stall, and hold the Arabs responsible for thwarting the talks.

But the Arabs, who really want peace, and who know the true value of this peace for them and for all the people in the region and the world, took a unanimous stand, were alert to Israel's game, and robbed it of the opportunity, deciding to attend the Washington talks. The Arabs decided to continue down the difficult road they chose in order to impose the challenge of a just peace on Israel. They will not go back on this, especially since they have had experience with Israel's maneuvers before and its attempts to destroy the peace process so that it can continue to build settlements and impose a fait accompli on Arabs and the whole world.

For this reason, the Israelis take into account that this is an election year in Israel and the United States, and that there is the issue of U.S. loans Israel and its supporters inside Congress are pressuring Washington with. The latter maintains its stand that negotiations must be based on land for peace and that settlement-building in the Palestinian territories must stop for them to discuss the Israeli loans. Will Israel's rulers ignore all this and continue to defy the international community and UN and Security Council resolutions? Do they really believe they can impose a fait accompli on Arabs and Palestinians?

We assert that peace is in the interest of Israel's own people, before all others; that the Arabs will not be forced to capitulate, no matter how strong or weak they may be; that the Palestinian intifadah will remain alive so long as Palestinian land is occupied; and that the world will not stand forever with its arms crossed before Israel's excesses, especially since the Arabs have given all they have.

In light of everything that has been said, and proceeding from Egypt's responsibility toward its nation and its absolute belief in a just peace, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made a statement yesterday condemning the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, describing it as an aggression against Lebanese sovereignty, which negatively affects the peace process. He asked Israel to practice restraint, abandon violence, and end its occupation of Arab territories, because violence can only breed violence. So will Israel's rulers reevaluate their calculations once again?

'Responsible Source' Stresses Need for Progress

NC2502082092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM highlights a statement by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry on the need to consolidate and continue the peace process. The source called for a change in Israel's stand, to accept the principle of land for peace and implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The official stressed the need to make progress in that direction in the round of bilateral talks that began in Washington yesterday, so that peace can be attained and tension and conflict terminated. The source noted that Egypt's interest in the continuation of the peace process is not just for the purpose of its continuation, but to achieve results.

Police Arrest 45 'Extremists' in Bani Suwayf

NC2202091692 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Some 35 members of extremist groups, including 10 members of the al-Jihad organization, have been arrested in Kawm al-Sa'aidah village in Markaz Biba, Bani Suwayf. Another 10 extremists were arrested in Biba after a clash with police. They had been disseminating leaflets and brandishing antiregime placards.

The arrests came in a police clampdown supervised by Major General Ibrahim Muhsin Sarhan, security director.

Libya

UN Envoy Safronchuk Arrives in Tripoli 22 Feb

LD2302120192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Feb (JANA)—The UN secretary general's envoy, Vasiliy Safronchuk, arrived in Tripoli yesterday for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Judge Denies Lockerbie Suspects Acquitted

NC2502103892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Feb (MENA)—Libyan Counselor Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawawi has categorically denied reports carried by some foreign news agencies, and published in Western and even some Arab papers, that the Higher Court in Libya has issued a verdict acquitting the two Libyan citizens accused by the United States and Britain of being involved in the downing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988.

Counselor al-Zawawi, who is assigned to investigate the case, told MENA that those who still propagate such things, and who before this claimed that the suspects had been executed, "know very little about how trials are conducted in any country in the world." He added that this is because no criminal trial of any suspect could be conducted before he is duly interrogated and referred to the competent court. In addition, he added, it is not in the jurisdiction of the High Court in Libya to conduct such a trial because, like any court of appeal in the world, it is not qualified to handle such case because it is a court of law. This means that appeals can be lodged with it over verdicts issued by other courts, provided legal conditions for this are available.

Al-Zawawi, who is the head of the first civil circuit in the Libyan Higher Court, noted that he had been chosen by this court's General Assembly to supervise the investigations, but this absolutely does not mean that the trial falls within the jurisdiction of the Higher Court, or within his jurisdiction. His role, he added, is merely to supervise the investigations and then refer the case to a criminal court, should he find adequate evidence that the charges are valid, "and this is something that we have not concluded up to now."

Al-Zawawi added that what really happened on Tuesday was nothing more than a news conference that he had called to brief the world media on the legal details concerning the case.

Al-Zawawi, meanwhile, expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher's statement, in which he noted that "Washington does not trust the credibility of what Libya's judge is saying, and the interrogations conducted on Tuesday were a judicial farce," as he put it. Al-Zawawi commented on the U.S. spokesman's statement by saying: "The use of such terms to defame the judicial authority

or judiciary of any country is something that calls for extreme sorrow." He added: We would have liked no such insults to be made by these officials in response to legal arguments or legal differences over a case that has room for such a legal dispute. He added: In such cases, the response must be scientific, legal, and free of any abuses or insults. In addition, the U.S. spokesman was wrong to consider the news conference to be a trial of the suspects, and this proves that the proceedings of the aforesaid news conference were not relayed honestly, and that the conference was depicted as a trial, which is to a great extent a distortion of the truth, he concluded.

Mauritania

Legislative Election Campaign Opens

AB2202183692 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 0730 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The election campaign for the 6 March legislative elections opened last night at 0000 GMT. This election campaign, which is taking place in each of the 53 election constituencies, will continue until 24 March 1992. In all, 222 candidates will vie for 79 parliamentary seats. Decree 91/141 of 13 November 1991, which sets out the modalities of the election campaign and the material organization of the elections and which was adopted by the National Assembly, stipulates in Article 22 that equal campaign airtime be allocated on radio and television to each of the recognized political parties free of charge. Thus, each party's total airtime will be proportional to the number of party candidates. In this regard, the commission of the Ministry of Information charged with implementing the campaign has met with representatives of the political parties participating in the legislative elections to inform them about use of the media.

It will be recalled that the administrative commissions created in various districts had earlier published the lists of the candidates for these parliamentary elections.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Urges Negotiations With Garang

EA2302123092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 92

["Excerpts" of speech by 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, and the Council of Ministers, in Juba, Equatoria State; date not given]

[Excerpts] This is Omdurman, Republic of Sudan radio. Ladies and gentlemen, here is a special program on the visit of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, to Equatoria State.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Ladies and gentlemen, God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all. Yesterday morning Lt. Gen. Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, paid a surprise visit to the town of Juba, capital of Equatoria State. He was accompanied by Major Gen. Dominic Kassiano and Lt. Colonel Ibrahim Sayf al-Din, both members of the RCC; RCC Secretary 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad Husayn; and Messrs. Presidential Affairs Minister Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, Education Minister 'Abd al-Basit Sabdarat, Commerce Minister Dr. Ibrahim Ubyadullah; the chiefs of the general staff, and a number of journalists.

Upon his arrival at Juba airport he was received by Maj. Gen. Saturnino Harikha, governor of Equatoria State; Maj. Gen. Ja'far (Sarit), commander of the Equatoria military zone; the deputy governor, ministers, executive officials, and large numbers of popular leaders and citizens. The town of Juba came out in a massive demonstration to welcome and greet Lt. Gen. al-Bashir. [passage omitted] His excellency then paid a visit to the people's hall and addressed the popular committees in a lengthy speech in which he concentrated on the state's efforts for peace and its determination to spread peace so that a proper atmosphere for development and construction prevails. He said:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] Brothers and sisters, leaders of the executive and popular work in the Equatoria State. God's peace, blessings, and mercy be upon you all. [Words indistinct] coming to Juba and learn at close quarters about the problems experienced by the town of Juba, to listen to the people of Juba, and to speak to them.

I would like to tell you, and you know that the first subject that the National Salvation Revolution dealt with from the beginning was the subject of peace. We worked steadily and made serious attempts to provide peace for all the citizens, to provide tranquillity and security. The state was enabled to provide services and establish development projects. Without peace no effective services can be provided to the citizens. No development projects can be set up. Moreover, there is the unstable security situation for citizens. We were interested in peace. [passage omitted]

We invited a number of heads of state to act as intermediaries. We contacted a number of organizations, including the World Council of Churches and others, to help solve the problem. President Babangida responded and agreed to be a mediator, and preparations were made for talks in Abuja. The agenda was drawn up and the date and the place were set for the talks, and then the [rebel] movement split.

After the split in the movement we found ourselves with the problem of whom to hold the talks with. With Garang? [words indistinct]. Should we hold talks with Lam Akol only? But if we hold talks with Lam Akol, would peace be realized?

We tried the Nigerians. We told them that we have no objections. Yes, our delegation is ready, ready to go at

any time. The only thing we ask for is that the two wings should come as one wing, as one delegation. Or every wing could send its own delegation. The two delegations can present themselves in Abuja, and we would negotiate with them.

We are still waiting for a reply from the Nigerian brothers so that a date and time can be set for the peace talks. As I have said, our delegation is ready. We are ready for any date and place because our objective is peace. We have come to develop the country. We have come to make it grow, and we cannot [word indistinct] until peace has been achieved. God willing, and according to our reading of the situation and according to our contacts, peace is very close indeed, and God willing, some time this year peace will be attained.

We in the government are insisting that this year shall be the last year of the war in Sudan. God willing, it will end, and forever. No one should then think of war. People should adopt the approach of solving problems through negotiations. If we go on fighting for 100 years, in the end we shall have to solve the problem by negotiations. Why should we wage war against one another? It is possible for us to hold negotiations for 100 years and not fight even for one day. This is our decision, and our efforts will, God willing, continue and peace will be achieved soon. After that, all the problems facing Equatoria State will be solved. [applause]

In addition to the security problems which the citizens are suffering from, they are also suffering from the hardships of life. One of the reasons for this is that the roads to Juba are no longer secure or are closed. The only way to Juba now is by air. Air travel is costly. God willing, the people of Juba in this year will hear the horns of steamers. The steamers will bring prosperity—all the commodities from the north, just like in the past. You will be welcoming them on the river. You will see the supplies of sugar, sorghum, and cloth, and the people will be liberated from air transportation. We hope that the other roads in the direction of Uganda and Kenya will open and that supplies will come from within the state or from neighboring countries or from the north.

We wish to assure you that the peace efforts are proceeding well and that peace will soon be attained. All of us in the north or the south shall work for peace.

It is not just the people of Juba who are suffering from the war. This war is costly, and the entire cost is being borne by you, people in the north, because it is the people who are bearing the cost of supplying the Army and equipping the Army, and so on. All this cost of war and the cost of air transportation is being borne by the people in the north [words indistinct]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

And at 1600 yesterday afternoon Freedom Square in Juba witnessed a mass popular rally addressed by the president. He predicted the establishment of peace and the advent of the entrenchment of the pillars of stability and peace.

His excellency said that we are ready for peace negotiations but that if the rebels reject initiatives then they shall be forced to negotiate and peace shall be achieved by force.

Toward the end of his speech his excellency donated 10 million pounds [figure as heard] in support of services in Juba town.

[Begin al-Bashir recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God be praised, God's peace and salutations be upon His messenger. Dear citizens, citizens of the town of Juba, God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you all. [passage omitted]

We wanted to talk to Garang, but he said no. Garang said that he must have all of Sudan. He must liberate the entire country. From whom does Garang want to liberate Sudan? Is there colonialism in Sudan? Are there Europeans in Sudan? [Word indistinct] liberation from foreigners.

He said he himself must (?govern). We said we have no objection. Just come and we shall have elections for the Sudanese people. If they want Garang, he will rule. If the people say we do not want Garang, the Sudanese people have that choice. Later we will set up a political organization. This political organization will have grass-roots elections. Everybody will participate. All the Sudanese are equal. There is no Sudanese better than another Sudanese. There is no discrimination between the Sudanese, that this one is a northerner and this one is a southerner, or this is a westerner and this one is from the east. A Sudanese is a Sudanese wherever he comes from. All people are equal. There is no discrimination between a Muslim and a Christian. There is no discrimination between one who is a believer and another who has no religion. All people in Sudan are Sudanese citizens. They have similar rights and duties. [passage omitted]

People who call for problems must be isolated; these are the people who want strife, who want us to have problems, who want the war to continue. These are the people who are now inciting the students. We are serious about peace. We shall make peace. Peace will come whether Garang likes it or not; peace will still come.

If Garang wants to negotiate now, we are ready. The delegation is ready in Khartoum. They are ready to go to Nigeria for talks. If Garang is ready, we are ready. If Garang does not want peace, we have our own way of bringing it about. If he does not want to come, we shall compel him to do so. He will be forced to come and negotiate. He must come and hear what other people have to say because peace must prevail.

The war must be brought to an end [words indistinct]. We all want peace. Nobody wants to die. The people want peace. We want peace but Garang does not want peace. If only Garang wants peace, we are ready. However, if he does not accept peace we shall impose peace by force.

Is all this clear to you? Have you all heard me? God willing, in a month, two months, or three months at the most, we will come here to Juba to celebrate peace and we shall have a rally in this very square. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on Zairian Relations

EA2302144492 Khartoum SUNA in French 1040 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Mr. Ali Ahmad Sahlul has affirmed that the agreements signed at the end of the Sudanese-Zairian joint ministerial commission demonstrate the sincere desire of Sudan and Zaire to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation which unite them.

Addressing the closing session of the joint commission in Khartoum on 20 February, Mr. Sahlul said that the signing of the agreements reaffirmed the determination of the two countries to promote regional cooperation and to enhance the development of the African Continent internationally.

He also pointed out that the commission debates had shown the depth of the relations uniting the two countries and that the two delegations held working sessions in a cordial atmosphere and worked zealously to further promote the mutual interests of the two countries. Mr. Sahlul also expressed hope that agreements in the interest of both Sudan and Zaire would be implemented.

Moreover, Mr. Buketi Bukayi, Zairian minister of international cooperation, pointed out that the agreements reflect a new reality in strengthening the historical relations between the two countries, and he said he hoped that the experts would work on their implementation. He added that the talks had affirmed the sincere desire of the two sides to strengthen mutual cooperation.

Zaire, Khartoum Issue Communique

EA2302220392 Khartoum SUNA in French 1608 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Communique issued at the conclusion of the Sudanese-Zairian Joint Grand Commission in Khartoum on 20 February; signed for Sudan by Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul and for Zaire by Minister of International Cooperation Buketi Bukayi]

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA)—The Joint Grand Commission of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Zaire held its fourth session in Khartoum from 18 to 20 February 1992.

The Sudanese delegation was headed by His Excellency Ali Ahmad Sahlul, minister of foreign affairs, and was made up of representatives of the relevant ministries. The Zairian delegation was headed by His Excellency Buketi Bukayi, Zairian minister of international cooperation. This delegation was composed of competent experts and the Zairian ambassador to Khartoum and some of his colleagues.

During his stay in Sudan, the Zairian minister of international cooperation met:

1. Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] president;

2. Major General Dominic Kassiano, RCC member and president of the services committee;

3. Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, retired, president of the Transitional National Assembly;

4. The minister in charge of trade;

5. The minister of energy

6. The minister of defense and security;

7. The commissioner for refugees.

The talks focused on the excellent relations that unite Zaire and Sudan. The two delegations held working sessions in a cordial atmosphere and worked zealously with a view to preserving and promoting the common interests of the two countries.

At the end of the meetings the heads of the two delegations signed the minutes of the fourth session, which sum up common projects for cooperation in the areas of politics, security, refugees, trade, customs, information, energy, and agriculture. They also signed:

1. A consular agreement;

2. An agreement related to border trade and customs cooperation;

3. A protocol of understanding related to the creation of a joint subcommission on matters of trade;

4. A protocol of understanding related to the functioning of the joint grand commission.

The agreements are of great importance as a legal framework to establish and promote exchanges of common interest and for consultations in all areas of cooperation.

A convergence of views was noted during the talks between the Zairian minister of international cooperation and the Sudanese foreign minister on the current situation on the African Continent. Among other things they expressed their commitment to African solidarity. They confirmed the great interest that Africa has in solving continental conflicts through peaceful means to thus counter any foreign intervention.

They also reaffirmed their determination to promote cooperation at the regional and continental levels for the development of Africa largely through the efforts of its own sons. Moreover, they noted with satisfaction the

recent developments in South Africa in the direction of the total abolition of apartheid.

As for the Arab world, the two parties underlined the need to find just solutions that include self-determination for the Palestinian people and a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the region.

The Zairian and Sudanese officials hailed the profound progress in international relations in the aftermath of the cold war.

The developing countries, especially African ones, will have to make enormous efforts in the current situation to safeguard their interests and their independence, and to work to scrap the foreign debt burden and to work for the opening up of new horizons for international cooperation for development, stability, and peace.

During the meeting the high-ranking Zairian official noted the sincere feelings of sympathy for the Zairian people and their deep belief in President Mobutu Sese Seko's wisdom and the country's political class to lift Zaire out of the delicate but temporary situation and allow it to again take its natural place among the giants of Africa to play its historical role in Africa's destiny.

The Zairian delegation hailed the fraternal and cordial spirit that characterized the meetings and the organization and also the hospitality shown to it during its stay in Khartoum. The Zairian side invited the Sudanese side to the joint grand commission's fifth session in Kinshasa in the first quarter of 1994. Sudan accepted. The exact date will be set through diplomatic channels.

Ethiopian President Praises Twinning Accord

EA2402110892 Khartoum SUNA in French 1641 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Kassala, Sudan, 21 Feb (SUNA)—Ethiopian President Mr. Meles Zenawi has expressed satisfaction with the signing of the twinning agreement between the Ethiopian province of Tigray and Sudan's eastern state [placename as heard], Colonel Awad Muhammad al-Hasan, governor of Eastern State, declared.

According to Col. Awad the Ethiopian head of state affirmed that the agreement reflected the depth of relations which unite the two peoples of Sudan and Ethiopia, and he affirmed that the twinning agreement would be an example to be followed by other Ethiopian regions. He also pointed out that the Ethiopian president had given [words indistinct] to implement the agreement as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

The colonel was accompanied during the trip by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, secretary general of the international Popular Friendship Council; Dr. Salah al-Din, minister in the office of the president of the Republic; Mr. Fatih Irwa, secretary of state in the office of the president of the Republic; and Mr. 'Uthman al-Sayyid, Sudanese ambassador to Ethiopia.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

JN2402121092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Manama, 24 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, today received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message deals with bilateral relations and current developments in the region as well as consultations on Islamic issues, especially those dealing with current developments in the Islamic republics of the dissolved Soviet Union.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati delivered the message to his highness the amir of Bahrain in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry under secretary for immigration affairs and passports; Javad Tork-Abadi, Iranian ambassador to Bahrain; and Tazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, director of administrative, financial, and consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Besharati, Foreign Minister Hold Talks

JN2302144992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Manama, 23 Feb (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah today received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

They reviewed the good ties between Bahrain and Iran, prospects for further cooperation, regional developments, and issues of mutual concern.

Amir Receives Iranian Vice President Manafi

LD2202164992 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb. 21, IRNA—Iranian Vice President and head of the Environment Protection Organization (EPO) Hadi Manafi discussed Tehran-Manama cooperation with Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah here Thursday.

The two sides discussed cooperation of the regional states on protection of the environment both in land and sea.

Al Khalifah lauded efforts made by the member states of the Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME), the Islamic Republic in particular, and voiced Manama's readiness to cooperate with ROPME for removing the marine pollution caused by the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

The Bahraini amir was briefed on new ecological plans of ROPME for ending the issue of the Persian Gulf waters pollution.

Formed by Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq, the ROMPE is based in Kuwait.

The meeting was also attended by heads of the environment protection organizations of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-Awadi and 'Abd-al-Barr al-Qayn.

Amir Holds Talks With Tunisian Foreign Minister

JN2402133792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Manama, 24 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, today received a written message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message deals with bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab arena and in the Arab Maghreb, as well as issues of mutual interest.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya delivered the message to his highness the amir of Bahrain in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister.

Views on the Gulf and Arab developments and current international issues were exchanged during the meeting.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry assistant under secretary for immigration affairs and passports; Mohamed Jenifene, Tunisian ambassador to Bahrain; and Jasim Bu'lay, Bahraini ambassador to Tunisia, attended the meeting.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Meets With Iraqi Opposition Leader

LD2202200192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received at the royal court at al-Yamamah Palace [in Riyadh] this afternoon Mr. Muhammad Bakir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal and 'Abd-al-Mushin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwwyjiri, the adviser at the royal court.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives 21 Feb

LD2102181692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1310 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi arrived in Riyadh this morning. He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mansuri, foreign under secretary for political affairs; the assistant head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; a representative of royal protocol; and Abdelkader Ben Salah, Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Foreign Minister Discusses Talks With UN Envoy

JN2402202492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1914 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn made the following statement to INA concerning Ambassador Rolf Ekeus' visit to Baghdad from 21 to 24 February 1992:

During talks in Baghdad, Iraq told Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the special committee, that it will explain its position on Resolutions 707 and 715 in a Security Council meeting scheduled for March. A political and technical Iraqi delegation will attend the meeting. I also conveyed this to Dr. Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general, and the president of the Security Council in a letter I sent them today.

The foreign minister added: During the talks with Ambassador Ekeus, Iraq stressed the need to clarify the extent of its implementation of the measures imposed against Iraq pursuant to Resolution 687, and the need not to confuse things. If the special committee is seeking to complete information relevant to the implementation of Resolution 687, then Iraq is ready to cooperate. The way to do this, however, is to hold scientific and technical dialogue in an objective manner, not to arouse tendentious accusations and suspicions, and use them as justifications to maintain the unjust blockade.

The foreign minister stressed that most of the measures imposed against Iraq in accordance with Resolution 687 have been implemented, and that Iraq has given all the information and data it was asked to give. Yet the Security Council has not changed its unjust position on the blockade against the people of Iraq, nor sought to create a fair balance between the need to implement Resolution 687 and its position on the blockade.

The foreign minister explained that this is due to the tendentious and rancorous policy pursued by the United States and its allies at the Security Council, despite the fact that a number of Security Council members have called for reconsidering the blockade.

The foreign minister said that a link between the lifting of the blockade and the implementation of Resolution 687 is an integral part of the resolution itself, and that the current policy pursued by the United States and its allies runs contrary to the articles of the said resolution, and changes the issue from the implementation of a Security Council resolution to a tendentious political game played by the United States against Iraq.

Concluding, the foreign minister called on the Security Council to deal objectively with this issue. He stressed that the Iraqi delegation that will visit New York in March will explain to the Security Council Iraq's cooperation with the special committee and its implementation of a very high percentage of the measures contained in Resolution 687; the delegation will also discuss all other aspects.

Saddam Receives Cable From Palestinian Group

JN2302175092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the secretary general of the Popular Resistance Movement for the Liberation of the Entire Palestinian Soil-Saddam Battalions [harakat al-muqawamah al-sha'biyah li tahrir kamil al-turab al-filastini-kata'ib Saddam]. The cable praises Iraq's heroic steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached With Iran on POW's, MIA's

JN2402102192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—Citing a responsible source at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, AL-JUMHURIYAH today reported that a tripartite agreement has been signed in Geneva among Iraq, Iran, and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to exchange prisoners of war [POW's] and information on those missing in action [MIA's].

The source told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the agreement was signed in Geneva late last week. The comprehensive agreement, as the source described it, involves the exchange of all POW's and complete namelists of MIA's, or any available information about them.

The source also noted that under this agreement, a quick plan of action has been drawn up to repatriate all Iraqi and Iranian POW's. After endorsement by Iraq, Iran, and the ICRC, the agreement has become an international document.

The source said that implementation of this agreement and its plan will begin in the next few days, and that the exchange of POW's will be via the Khosrovi border area.

The source further said that both parties will later conduct search operations for the remains of MIA's in the two countries, and make lists of their names.

The source hoped the problem of POW's, from which the Muslim Iraqi and Iranian people have suffered, will end with the speedy return of POW's to their families.

Government Troops Reported on 'Maximum Alert'

NC2502133492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] In a statement yesterday, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said that the tyrant's troops have been put on a state of maximum alert in Baghdad and four other southern governorates, including al-Basrah. The statement said military reinforcements have been sent to the marshland area, where the tyrant's troops are surrounding large numbers of citizens.

The statement asserted that the popular troops launched attacks against the oppressive apparatusses in al-Basrah and al-Nasiriyah late last month and early this month, inflicting casualties.

SAIRI Chairman al-Hakim asserted in Riyadh last Saturday that the tyrant's forces are getting ready for an all-out offensive against the southern area during the [word indistinct] days [words indistinct].

SAIRI Leader Views U.S. 'Support' for Regime

NC2402162092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1425 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Our foreign news sources have reported that Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has addressed a statement to the sons of our Iraqi people and the Islamic nation on the occasion of the first anniversary of the great Sha'ban uprising. [words indistinct] that the best way for salvation is for Saddam to step down from leadership, to preserve [words indistinct] and avert more destruction. [words indistinct] expressed their rejection of this tyrant.

As for the role of the United States and the West in striking down the uprising of the Iraqi people, the statement says: Perhaps the biggest crime committed by the U.S. Administration [word indistinct] for our people's uprising [words indistinct]. In fact, the regime was given preparations and support by the United States for this crime.

Al-Sayyid al-Hakim specified [word indistinct] of the new stage in the following points:

1. Respect for Islam—doctrine, law, and education.

2. Respect for ideological freedom, political pluralism, and popular opinion in administration and organization.

3. Insistence on the unity of our territory and the political entity [word indistinct] of land and man.

4. Respect for national, social, and (?religious) pluralism for the Iraqi people.

5. Maintaining relations between the people [words indistinct] all neighboring countries.

6. Commitment to the new international trend to set up systems based on human freedom, defense of the oppressed, and rejection of hegemony [word indistinct].

New Hampshire Primaries 'Blow' to Bush

JN2202153792 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 22, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today said the results of the recent New Hampshire primary dealt a telling blow to U.S. President George Bush, let alone the fact that they expressed the American voter's dissatisfaction over the policy Bush had adopted in running the country.

In an article published today, the daily said Bush's narrow victory over his rival Buchanan represented a stern warning that he should re-arrange his political priorities so that he could win the support of the largest number of voters, otherwise he would lose his throne.

Levi Reacts to Baker Remarks on Settlement

TA2402195492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] We have just received a first reaction to Secretary of State Baker's remarks. Foreign Minister David Levi said a few minutes ago that Secretary of State Baker will be unable to force anything on Israel and that only sincere efforts by both countries will enable a compromise on the issue of guarantees to be reached. Also, Foreign Minister David Levi addressed the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations tonight. He was interviewed by our correspondent Nitzan Hen:

[Begin recording] [Levi] The Israeli Government, too, has a policy, and policies cannot be imposed by force. We are not on bad terms, but we must achieve understandings and agreements, and Mr. Baker knows it. I hope a joint effort will enable us to resolve what I would call an unusual situation. No one ought to think that Israel is buckling.

[Hen] Do you believe Baker's declaration reflects an attempt to ram the government on the eve of elections?

[Levi] No, I would prefer not to embark on this issue, which preoccupies everyone these days. Every country has domestic matters that should be regarded as sacrosanct by friendly countries; we have always maintained this attitude, and we expect others to respect these matters. At the same time, there are many spheres in which the United States and Israel have common interests. Everything possible should be done to overcome disagreements and to find mutually acceptable spheres of agreement. It is a must. [end recording]

Says 'Dispute' With U.S. 'Must Stop'

TA2502063492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that the Israeli delegation to Washington is armed with clear instructions and guidelines to advance the political process. The minister, who addressed the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the World Jewish Congress in Jerusalem last night, also said that the Israeli-U.S. dispute over the loan guarantees must stop. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah heard Minister Levi's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Matzliah] Most of Foreign Minister Levi's remarks were devoted to the political process and the difficulties Israel is facing. Nevertheless, regarding the loan guarantees, he said the U.S. Administration must understand something:

[Levi] Policy cannot be imposed on another country without the Arabs exploiting it as if Israel is being forced to change its policy. If the Arabs believe that Israel is being pressured and weakened or that it is isolated, there will be no peace. This must be recognized. There is a rule here in this region: Peace is not made with the weak. If they believe that they have isolated Israel, then there will be no peace.

[Matzliah] Israel is complying with all the agreements reached with it on the political process, Minister Levi said. The Arabs are the ones who keep finding alibis and reasons for holding up the process, and then they blame Israel. Referring to the Israeli delegation in Washington, the foreign minister said it has received all the necessary powers.

[Levi] After holding thorough discussions before our delegation left for Washington and after arming it with clear instructions and guidelines to advance the process, to claim that it has gone without authority and is not armed with instructions is utter nonsense. It is supplied with everything necessary and is authorized to make progress.

[Matzliah] At the same time, Minister Levi said, we must not develop illusions, and we must state clearly that Israel is not entering this process in order to set up a Palestinian state. The proposal presented by the Palestinians recently is in fact a proposal for the birth of a state, Minister Levi said. [end recording]

Finance Minister Reacts

TA2502124492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Report by Yo'av Aviv]

[Excerpt] Addressing high school students in Haifa today, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said: The United States is not meeting our expectations, and that is the problem. Moda'i believes there is also a psychological aspect to the loan guarantees issue. The finance minister called on U.S. President George Bush not to intervene in Israel's internal affairs. We are a democracy and not a totalitarian state, he said.

[Begin Moda'i recording] As long as the United States wants to make sure that any aid it extends to us will not be used in ways that contradict its political outlook, that is okay and we can make such a promise, and I am speaking in my capacity as finance minister. We cannot be viewed as a country of liars because we are not. From the moment it becomes a political issue.... [changes thought] We said we would not use that money for settlements. They said we can fudge it. Yes, it can be fudged, but they can also check. What will the next condition be? Perhaps less security for Israel, and I am not just speaking off the top of my head. [end recording]

Referring to debt repayment, the finance minister said:

[Begin Moda'i recording] Never once, even during wartime, has Israel deviated even one iota, never has it fallen behind by a single day. Whoever said we were once late in our repayment lied. This has nothing to do with the issue at hand. The United States accuses us, but knows the truth. [end recording]

The finance minister said one of the alternatives if Israel does not receive the U.S. guarantees is to sell off state assets through the privatization of companies and the sale of banks and state lands. [passage omitted]

Ministers See Possible Compromise

TA2502101392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 92 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Senior cabinet ministers stated last night that despite Baker's unequivocal remarks to the Foreign Appropriations Subcommittee, the road to a compromise has not yet been blocked. According to them, the secretary of state left room for an agreement whereby the cost of completing houses already started would be deducted from the guarantees. In contrast, Minister Ehud Olmert reacted in very sharp language: "The U.S. Administration primarily wants to maintain the momentum of disagreement with Israel. What Israel does makes no difference at all. Even if we decided to freeze settlement, they would ask for yet another concession. This is the consequence of capitulation to Arab pressure."

Shamir Speaks on Relations With U.S.

TA2402120792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Report by Rina Matzliah]

[Text] Addressing representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir referred primarily to relations between Israel and the United States and to the loan guarantees.

The political process was encouraged by the United States, which up to now has been an honest broker, the prime minister said, and we appreciate the role played by the United States in it. Israel and the United States have cooperated, both in good times and in bad, because of Israel's commitment to democracy and freedom. We are the only democracy in the region, Shamir said, and from the strategic point of view, we are a source of stability at a time when dictatorships are building up their armies.

Of course, Shamir added, we have disagreements with the United States, and this is only natural; however, the essence of the ties between our two countries will not change. Only Israel was and still is a faithful ally of the United States. Therefore, when disagreements crop up, one should keep them in the proper perspective.

In the second part of his address, Shamir said: We are sorry the U.S. Administration insists on linking the granting of guarantees to absorb immigrants, who are in actual fact refugees, to political issues. We will not tell any Jew to wait 120 or 90 days, he said; these are Jews who must come to Israel as quickly as possible.

[Begin Shamir recording in English] My friends, I want to say frankly to you, who work so hard to strengthen the relations between the United States and Israel, that I fail to understand the connection between the absorption of hundreds of thousands of immigrants and the continued development of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Nor is it clear why Arabs may.... [end recording]

Nor is it clear to me, the prime minister said, why Arabs are entitled to live in all areas of Eretz Yisra'el, while Jews are not. Nevertheless, Shamir noted, we agreed not to use the money to build in the territories and not to direct immigrants there.

The prime minister concluded his speech by saying: No government that is established after the elections in June will agree to forgo the right of Jews to live in this or that part of Eretz Yisra'el.

The prime minister's speech prompted a round of applause, particularly after he stated that this is the most important time for the unity of Jews throughout the world.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 24 February carries a related report by Eyal Lavi, who adds: "The prime minister stated that the murder of the Israeli security guard in Janin will in no way affect the peace talks resuming in Washington this evening, but Israel will do everything in its power to do something there, in Janin. Shamir has not yet made up his mind regarding the settlers' demand to civilianize the nearby presettlement of Ginot."

[Eyal says that the prime minister told his audience: "I fail to see the relation between the absorption of immigrants and the continued development of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We should not confuse presence in the area with rule over it. We are present in the area, but this fact does not mean that we will not discuss the status of the territories."]

No Halt to Building 'Even for One Day'

TA2502061492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Feb 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Nadav Shragay, Ori Nir, and Lili Galili]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated yesterday in a meeting with leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza: "Although the State of Israel needs the guarantees, as prime minister I will not lend my hand to halting Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, not even for one day. We will not accept such a dictate. Although Israel is marching toward peace negotiations, the government will see to it that these negotiations do not jeopardize areas of our homeland or settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and throughout Eretz Yisra'el."

Uri Ari'el, head of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, told the prime minister: "It

has only now transpired that the real choice is not between guarantees and settlements, but between guarantees and Israel's independence. The U.S. Administration's gross attempt to dictate and influence the elections in Israel is an antidemocratic move which will fail." Ma'ale Adumim Mayor 'Amos Tartman added: "The administration's attempt to influence the outcome of the elections should turn on a red light both in Labor and the left-wing camp because pressure will sooner or later be exerted on any democratic government in Israel." [passage omitted]

Likud Faction Accuses U.S. of Interference

TA2402125192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction executive has voiced outrage at what it termed the Americans' intervention in Israel's internal election. Our Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports:

The Likud faction executive gave its approval to Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin to submit to the Knesset plenum this week a motion to the agenda concerning the U.S. attempt to influence the results of the elections in Israel.

Explaining the reasons behind the motion, MK Begin said: U.S. Administration circles have leaked to the press that the administration is interested in Labor's victory in the elections and that, to that end, it will even try to withhold from Israel the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption. Such gross interference in a democratic process in the sovereign State of Israel calls for a Knesset debate, MK Begin said.

MK Sara Doron, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, said that the U.S. threat to make the guarantees conditional on a freeze on settlement constitutes a dictate and creates a situation in which someone is giving orders and someone is taking them. Security threats loom over all areas of the country. The terrorist attacks in the central part of the country prove that security dangers will only grow if Israel's boundaries shrink.

MK Ari'el Weinstein said: The United States is interfering in the Knesset election campaign. There is no reason, therefore, that we should not encourage private individuals to influence the election campaign in the United States. The U.S. Administration believes that MK Yitzhaq Rabin is an accommodating partner to far-reaching concessions.

MK Uri'el Linn stated: The United States is a friendly country and gives us a great deal of aid. We had better keep that in mind.

Source on Reported U.S. Preference for Rabin

TA2502101192 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Feb 92 p 6

[Report by Yosi Werther in New York, Shlomo Dror, and Amnon Levi]

[Excerpts] President Bush and Secretary of State Baker have decided to use a strategy aimed at bringing about Yitzhaq Shamir's defeat in the elections or forcing him to set up a unity government with Yitzhaq Rabin, columnist Leslie H. Gelb of THE NEW YORK TIMES claimed yesterday. [passage omitted]

HADASHOT correspondent Amnon Barzilay adds: A senior government source close to Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday in response to THE NEW YORK TIMES article: "We will have to go to the Israeli public and ask it who is leading the country: us or the Americans." The source added that only days ago, THE NEW YORK TIMES published reports in a similar vein, apparently quoting Baker. "The newspaper is now quoting the U.S. President himself as expressing the same view—in other words, overthrowing Shamir and bringing about Rabin's election as prime minister." He added: "We are convinced that any attempt by the Americans to help Rabin overthrow the Likud will be contrary to Labor Party interests."

No Slowdown Seen in Settlement Construction

TA2302201592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Report by settlement affairs correspondent Beni Liss]

[Text] Baker and Shoval have met. Baker and Shoval will meet again, and then again and again, but the settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria has not ceased. Guarantees and settlement are interlocked issues and, while the dispute with the Americans is making slow progress, the construction rate is fast.

'Ofarim is a 14-camper settlement slated to grow 100 times its present size: Over 1,400 housing units will join the 14 campers. All the contracts have been duly signed, and construction work is in progress. No one is even considering breaking the contacts and stopping construction, we have been told by locals.

In the Bet Arye settlement, the construction of 300 housing units has just been completed, and about 300 more have been started. In 'Aley Zahav, dozens of apartments are waiting to house settlers, if any decide to come, as there is hardly an onslaught of Israelis seeking housing beyond the Green Line. We have learned that settlement leaders intend to launch a sales campaign soon to try to fill their settlements.

Qiryat Sefer in Modi'in is an ultra-Orthodox settlement situated a few hundred meters beyond the Green Line. Some 1,500 housing units will be built here, mainly for Bene Beraq [religious town in central Israel] residents. Of these, 700 units have been sold. The government does not finance any of this construction. Will the Americans include such a settlement in their demand to freeze settlement activities in return for guarantees? U.S. Embassy staffers, who came to see for themselves, were told that the construction was an expansion of the adjoining Matityahu settlement.

Despite the shadow of the guarantees threat, every sign in Judaea and Samaria indicates that construction has not stopped, that plans are being carried out, that there have been no instructions to slow down: Contracts and construction plans are valid for 18 months from today.

Shamir Vows Continued Construction

TA2302193992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Heads of Jewish local councils from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza tonight met with the prime minister in Mr. Shamir's Jerusalem bureau to discuss autonomy and guarantees.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlement leaders asked the prime minister to refrain from linking the receipt of guarantees with continued construction in settlements. The prime minister promised that he will not allow construction in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to stop and that he will not join negotiations jeopardizing the settlement drive in Eretz Yisra'el.

Sharon: 22,000 Units in Territories

TA2402121792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Report by Rina Matzliah]

[Text] Prior to meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations were addressed by Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon. Asked about the extent of current construction in the territories, Sharon said over 22,000 housing units are currently being built. This figure consists of housing starts from 1990 to this day.

[Begin Sharon recording in English] Twenty-two thousands, but I speak now about apartments that started in 1990 and, let's say, are almost finished. I speak about those that started in 1991—13,500—and a few thousands we started this year. [end recording]

Minister Sharon cited various figures. When asked why these figures do not tally with the figures government officials submitted to Baker, Sharon said: I do not know what Baker was told; I have never spoken to Baker.

Emerging from the meeting, Sharon was asked whether there is any connection between what is happening with the settlements and the latest terror attacks. He replied: There is no connection. There has always been terror. Actually, this terror could have been eradicated had the right measures been taken.

Arens Reacts to Murder of Israeli in Janin

TA2402160792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The terrorists who carried out the murder in Janin have to be found and caught. It is not a matter of changing security procedures, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in reference to the murder of the security guard in Janin. Qobi Mandel, our Haifa correspondent, heard the defense minister's remarks:

[Begin Arens recording] In Janin, we have a concentration of terrorist activity. One or more groups of terrorists operate there and we will have to solve that problem. [end recording]

The defense minister was asked if there is any intention of changing security procedures in the territories in the wake of the murder.

[Begin Arens recording] It is not a matter of security procedures. We have to find the terrorists and catch them. [end recording]

Minister Arens, who visited the two soldiers recuperating in Rambam Hospital after being wounded last week in south Lebanon, was also asked about the possibility of setting up a new settlement on the murder site. He said he has not received any such request and therefore refused to discuss the subject.

Abu-Jabir Praises U.S. Stand on Loan Guarantees

JN2302123392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said in Amman Saturday he welcomed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tough conditions for guaranteeing loans to Israel worth $10 billion.

"We think this stand will be a help in the process in the sense that it should act as a sobering factor to the Israelis, who seem to be intent on putting obstacles in the path of peace," Dr. Abu-Jabir, told Reuters Saturday.

Baker Requests $77 Million in Aid to Jordan

JN2502103092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has asked the Congress for $77 million in aid to Jordan. He told a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee that had it not been for Jordan's effective participation, there would have been no peace process in the Middle East. He said Jordan is suffering from a difficult economic situation with the arrival in the country of 300,000 people deported from Gulf states. Replying to accusations from two American representatives, the U.S. secretary denied that Jordan is violating the blockade against Iraq.

Al-Tarawinah—Venue Should Be 'Neutral'

JN2202145892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Interview with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, member of the Jordanian delegation to the Washington peace talks, by Khalil al-Qaryuti in Amman on 22 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Qaryuti] What do you expect the Israeli position in this round of negotiations to be, especially since the agenda is about to be discussed?

[al-Tarawinah] In fact, we are going to Washington under very sensitive and complex circumstances. There is an Israeli incursion in Lebanon and an assault on UN positions. We are going to Washington foremost on the basis of the UN resolutions. There are continuing practices in the occupied territories, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that have reached the point of direct interference with the Palestinian delegation itself. Two members of the official delegation were arrested, and when the delegation came to Amman, four of its members were denied exit. In fact, I am speaking about uncomfortable conditions that are far away from the spirit of peace and the peaceful trend. By going to Washington, however, we provide evidence of the seriousness of the Arab side—seriousness toward peace and the Arab commitment to it. It also proves that the Arab side acts in accordance with international norms. Of course, we are taking into consideration that the Arab constants remain the main motive for every detail relating to peace. These constants are international ones as well. We are speaking about international legitimacy, represented in the Security Council resolutions; and also international treaties, that are signed and approved by world countries.

[al-Qaryuti] Many reports have spoken about changing the venue of the negotiations from Washington. Do you support that?

[al-Tarawinah] In fact, we have always backed Washington. The third round will be in Washington. The United States has shown a desire to move the negotiations elsewhere. In my assessment, this does not mean the the U.S. is not committed to the process. This subject is negotiable, but it is very clear to the Arab side that this venue, which will be discussed during the negotiations by various tracks, and also with the United States, will not be in the region in which we live, will not be in the border areas, and will not even be in any Arab country. It should be in a neutral place. This is better for the negotiations. We hope to agree on a venue, but principally all four delegations are in the same place.

UN's Goulding on Talks With al-Hirawi, Karami

NC2402132092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding visited Government House, where he met with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami. Goulding said his current visit is in accordance with an authorization from the UN secretary general to see first hand the situation in south Lebanon.

Goulding then proceeded to the temporary presidential palace and discussed with the president how to implement Resolution 425, the role of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in the south, and coordination there between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army.

Goulding said:

[Begin Goulding recording in English with superimposed Arabic translation] As an envoy of the UN secretary general, I met with the president of the Republic to discuss the situation in the south and various developments. I have been authorized to convey to the Lebanese officials and people the UN secretary general's concern about what happed in the south last week. I discussed with the president matters related to UNIFIL and contacts concerning Resolution 425, which contains solutions to this problem. [end recording]

Responding to a question on whether the UNIFIL positions will be attacked, Goulding said: I do not believe so.

Asked if the Lebanese Army will deploy in UNIFIL areas, Goulding said that the Army is already present there.

Karami Says Rocket Attacks Not 'Acceptable'

NC2502090292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi; Prime Minister 'Umar Karami; and Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, met at the temporary presidential headquarters yesterday. Following the meeting, Karami said that the Lebanese state has made a decision to halt the firing of rockets at Israel, because this is not an acceptable form of resistance.

Karami also said that Lebanon will not go it alone in the peace talks. Reiterating the call for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, Karami noted that the Lebanese delegation will stay in Washington until some progress is made in the talks.

Fadlallah: Westerners 'Have Nothing To Fear'

AU2402150392 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 24 Feb 92 pp 160-163

[Unattributed interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, "the spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia"; place and date not given: "Much More Blood Will Be Shed"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Shaykh Fadlallah, after the death of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, you have called on Muslims to attack Israel on all fronts. Is there the danger of a new war in the Middle East?

[Fadlallah] What do you expect the Muslims to do if their blood is shed? Should we just stand there and not react to the crimes carried out by the Israelis?

[DER SPIEGEL] Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi had blood on his hands.

[Fadlallah] Are the hands of the Zionists not also stained with blood? The murder of the secretary general of Hizballah is proof of how much the Jews hate us and how much they despise the life of the Muslims. The Jews think that they can get away with shedding Islamic blood. They are absolutely wrong. They carried out this action after their masters in America gave them the green light. The Zionists must realize that many battles will still be fought between us. We will show them which side is able to hold out longer.

[DER SPIEGEL] How do you explain how the Israelis had such excellent information about the route of Shaykh Musawi's motorcade? Do they have informers in the ranks of the Hizballah?

[Fadlallah] I do not think so. The Israelis managed to carry out this murderous deed because 'Abbas was a very courageous man, who was afraid of nothing. That is why he neglected the necessary security measures. Israeli helicopters carry out reconnaissance flights across our territory on a daily basis. They happened to discover the unprotected motorcade of the secretary general, which encouraged the Israeli pilots to carry out their attack.

[DER SPIEGEL] Which once again proved Israel's military superiority.

[Fadlallah] The Jews want the entire Islamic nation to live in terror. They want to intimidate us and ultimately force us to recognize accomplished facts. Yet, we will not yield to terror and we will continue to make Jewish society live in anxiety and danger.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are the political consequences of the murder of al-Musawi for Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] It is not a question of killing an individual, but of the existence of a people and a nation. This crime will not deprive us of our courage or break our resistance. On the contrary, our resistance will increase and become more powerful. The Jews must understand that there is no power in this world able to destroy the Muslims and their nation.

[DER SPIEGEL] The concentration of Israeli troops in southern Lebanon has caused masses of people to flee. Would it not be wiser for your people, too, to get out of the vicious circle of violence? [Fadlallah] This invasion is show and propaganda for the Israeli election campaign. It is intended to reassure Jewish society after

Muslim resistance fighters succeeded in attacking a military barracks in the heart of Israel a few days ago, and hacking and knifing Israeli soldiers to death. The success of such attacks discourages Soviet Jews from immigrating to Israel. If the Israelis were really to invade southern Lebanon, their problems would get even bigger.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why did Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, a man considered to be moderate and pragmatic, become the target of the Israelis?

[Fadlallah] The Israelis have thus far not been able to capture the Arab resistance fighters who attacked their barracks. This action weakened their feeling of self-assurance and, what is more, undermined the much-lauded strength of the Israelis. Israel fears losing its authority, which is why it killed the secretary general in a spectacular way—in order to reestablish lost confidence in Jewish society. Despite all the U.S. and European appeals for peace, I predict that there will still be a lot of violence and much bloodshed between us.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is there now a danger that the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs will not continue in Washington?

[Fadlallah] The crime carried out by Israel was a clear message. We will respond in the appropriate way—all Muslims will respond to it.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does that also mean that the supporters of the Hizballah will again take Western foreigners as hostages?

[Fadlallah] I do not think that anybody is interested in taking hostages. Western citizens have nothing to fear in Lebanon.

[DER SPIEGEL] Have the chances for the release of the two German hostages in Lebanon now deteriorated?

[Fadlallah] No. In my opinion, the solution lies in Germany returning to old, time-tested secret diplomacy. As far as I know, much progress was made before everything came to a standstill because the German Government adopted an inflexible public position. The German people are our friends, because they were equally oppressed, as we continue to be to this day. We have absolutely nothing against the Germans, which is why we appeal to the Federal Government: Return to secret negotiations, because it gives great hope.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is it true that Israeli navigator Ron Arad, who has been detained in Lebanon, was executed in retaliation?

[Fadlallah] Do not ask me such questions.

[DER SPIEGEL] Hizballah will not achieve anything by responding to violence with violence. When will readiness to seek a peaceful solution prevail?

[Fadlallah] At the moment, many people in and outside this region are trying to find a compromise solution. The Muslims want freedom and they want to have their land back. As long as we do not get it back the fighting will continue and it will last for a long, long time. The peace talks—in Washington or wherever—are not the most important issue; what matters is the dignity and the freedom of the Islamic nation. We do not care about how many victims it costs us, so long as we achieve our objective. History has taught us that people are unable to achieve national freedom without bloodshed.

Cleric Assails 'Unmanly' Killing of al-Musawi

LD2402154492 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Ba'labakk (Lebanon), Feb. 24, IRNA—A prominent Muslim leader said here Monday that the "unmanly" assassination of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary-general of Hizballah in Lebanon, by the Zionist regime was part of global arrogance's vain attempts to put out the light of Islam.

"Genuine Mohammadan Islam is the only force that has risen up against global arrogance, and for this reason, arrogance and the Zionists are trying to remove this main hurdle by murdering ulema and Muslim leaders," Husayn al-Musawi, head of the Islamic Amal Movement told IRNA.

Hoj. 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, a six-year old son and some body-guards attained martyrdom last week when intruding Israeli helicopters targetted their car with rockets in southern Lebanon.

"The United States and international Zionism thought they could crush Muslim resistance in Lebanon by assassinating al-Musawi, being unaware that the golden era of Islam has already dawned and the Muslim combatants are determined to continue their struggle", Husayn al-Musawi, popularly known as also known as Abu Hisham said.

Rejecting any compromise with the terrorist state of Israel, he said the "blood of martyr al-Musawi has instilled a new life into the struggle of Islamic ummah."

Abu Hisham also vowed that Lebanese Muslims would continue their fighting until their Islamic goals were attained.

Kuwaiti National Council Delegation Visits

Discusses Prisoners

LD2002213592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1617 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Beirut, 19 Feb (KUNA)—'Abd al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council, and his delegation have opened talks with Lebanese officials. They are discussing the fraternal relations between Lebanon and Kuwait, the Middle East peace talks, and the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraqi prisons. Al-Masa'id, after meeting Lebanese President

Ilyas al-Hirawi, told reporters that he had raised the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, and had pointed out that not less than 2,200 persons—old people, women, and children, are still in Iraqi prisons. [passage omitted]

Meets al-Hirawi, Karami

NC2102074492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation headed by National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the prime minister, lawyer 'Umar Karami. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim accompanied the delegation.

Karami briefed the Kuwaitis on the political, security, and economic aspects of the Lebanese situation. He focused on the current economic blockade, which is pressuring Lebanon into taking a particular stand in the peace negotiations.

He said Lebanon's resolve is decisive and final; not one grain of land or single drop of water will be relinquished, and there will be no signing of any treaty with Israel separate from the Arab countries, no matter how strong the pressure, or how fierce the Israeli attacks on south Lebanon and its inhabitants.

The head of the Kuwaiti delegation informed Karami that there will be a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the next two weeks to secure $10 billion to help the Arab countries affected by the Gulf war. The fund already contains $6.5 billion.

He said: We hope that Lebanon will receive most of this aid, because the Arabs are responsible for what happened there and they bear the burden of its reconstruction.

He added: Kuwaitis, who regard themselves as Lebanese and who share their aspirations, also share their suffering, not forgetting that the Lebanese shared theirs during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Prime Minister Karami replied: Lebanon, which rejects any aggression, does not accept agression against a fraternal country. Lebanon's spontaneous official and popular stand in support of Kuwait in its predicament proceeded from this principle.

The delegation leader, al-Masa'id, said after the meeting: We met the prime minister and proposed several positive ideas for the good of our friend and brother, Lebanon. We will continue this discussion for Lebanon's sake and to contribute to its reconstruction. We implore God to grant fraternal Lebanon success.

Junblatt Sees 'Conspiracy'

NC2102134492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, stated that we are facing Israeli bombs and an Israeli conspiracy on one hand, and a conspiracy of officials in power on the other. He noted the deterioration in the value of the Lebanese pound, and the incorrect policy followed in this regard.

Junblatt made these remarks in al-Mukhtarah following his meeting with 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council, in the presence of Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, PSP secretary general, and a number of PSP Command Council members. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: We spoke with Shaykh al-Masa'id about the situation in Lebanon, and we appreciate Kuwait's interest in assisting Lebanon. It seems, however, that some of the Lebanese in power do not want assistance for projects; they only want cash. We know that under this regime, unfortunately, if cash does come into Lebanon, it will be squandered, just as the Central Bank of Lebanon squandered $600 million on the currency market. It was in vain; the Lebanese pound is falling once again today. Wrong policy, conspiracy, or ignorance? We no longer know. We are facing Israeli bombs and an Israeli conspiracy on one hand, and a conspiracy of officials in power on the other.

Delegation Departs

NC2202061792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpts] A Kuwaiti delegation led by National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id left Beirut for Kuwait this afternoon on a special Kuwaiti plane, following a visit of several days. [passage omitted]

At the airport, al-Masa'id commented on the Kuwaiti delegation's visit to Lebanon, saying: It was successful. We visited his excellency, President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami. We talked and several good proposals were made. We discussed matters of interest to fraternal Lebanon, economic issues, and the Lebanese trade fair due to be held in Kuwait. We reviewed everything of concern to the Lebanese people, whom we are always ready to support. As for special funding to assist countries suffering losses, I believe that Lebanon has suffered most and its share should be enough to restore part of what it lost during the past 17 years. Perhaps Lebanon was fighting and struggling on behalf of others. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Receives Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister

NC2102104592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Economy and Trade Minister Marwan Hamadah discussed bilateral relations, particularly on the economic level, with Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Konstantin Masik.

Masik then met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and discussed the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations.

Editorial Wonders If Peace 'Remains Relevant'

JN2202073892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial and two other articles published in the column "AL-THAWRAH Issues," AL-THAWRAH comments on the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon and the continued Israeli troop buildup.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH notes the careful timing of the current aggression in Lebanon, saying that this aggression started while the first step of the U.S. presidential election campaign was taking place. The AL-THAWRAH editorial speculates as to whether any talk of peace remains relevant against the backdrop of Israeli belligerence, which is being practiced everywhere, and which has failed to elicit any words meant to deter it.

AL-THAWRAH adds: How can we talk of peace and go to Washington to discuss peace under U.S. sponsorship, and against the background of U.S. assurances, at a time when Israel pushes north, kills and displaces people, occupies their territories, and tramples on the most basic concepts of peace in Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip?

Commentary Condemns 'Israeli Nonsense' at Talks

JN2402164892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1242 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We—as well as many of those interested in the developments of the Middle East peace process—believe that [the fourth round of talks] will be decisive, having been preceded by rounds during which Israel played with time, and deliberately moved the talks from one vacuum to another, using pretexts with clear purposes, regardless of what feeble excuses are used to cover them. For the new round of talks, which begin in Washington today, to be serious enough, they must proceed toward substantive discussions and the search for solutions to the basic issues which fan the Middle East conflict. Among these paramount issues are Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, implementation of UN resolutions, and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

During the sessions that have been held so far within the framework of the peace conference, Israel has disregarded the major objectives for which the conference has been held. Israel has also deliberately ignored all rules and bases established by international legitimacy and the U.S. peace initiative as good ground for looking for a just, comprehensive solution in the region. Neither the UN resolutions nor the land-for-peace principle mean anything to Israel, or raise its interest the least bit. In fact, it has become clear that Israel is preoccupied with some marginal issues, which it has been exploiting throughout the past months to drive the dialogue from one maze to another.

Hence, entering the halls of the new round of the peace talks in Washington today, we find that we should indicate that we are not there this time to listen to Israeli nonsense, which revolves either around the venue problem, the representation problem regarding the Palestinian delegation, or different problems which aim at nothing other than obstructing and undermining the peace talks. Rather, we have gone to Washington to place the talks on the right track, and to move the issues to their proper place, before the entire peace process is turned into a game in which Israel wastes time and distances the world from the requirements of peace.

As the Syrian Arab delegation affirmed in Washington yesterday, the basis of the peace process is what all parties, the cosponsors of the conference, and the international community have agreed upon; that is, the resolutions of international legitimacy. Referring to these resolutions and working for them can achieve progress toward peace. The cosponsors should exert serious efforts and should play the role that they have pledged to play, which is that of a catalyst for the peace process.

The United States, in particular, is the only state capable of putting pressure on Israel. Without U.S. economic and military support, Israel can neither adopt hard-line stands nor persist in placing obstacles in the way of the peace talks. If the objective is really to achieve peace in the Middle East and to bring about a just, comprehensive solution, Washington should play its part and save the peace conference from the perils of collapse, before every hope for peace is turned into an impossibility.

Afghanistan

UN Has 'Guarantees' on Najibollah Departure

NC2402072292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] UN special envoy on Afghanistan Benon Sevan announced it is possible an interim government could come to power in Afghanistan by the end of the coming summer.

Sevan stated that the United Nations has obtained guarantees on Najib's concurrence to relinquish power. Sevan stated that the first session of the Peace Council, comprised of 150 representatives from the various Afghan groups, will convene in the second half of April. He said that the council will assess the process of setting up an interim government.

Sevan added: The complete transfer of power to an interim government is necessary.

Najibollah Declares Amnesty for Deserters

LD2202100192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Decree issued by Afghan President Najibollah on amnesty of armed forces personnel; date not given]

[Text] On the basis of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, in continuation of the humanitarian measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan, in consideration of the request made by the families and relatives of a number of the personnel of the Armed Forces, in providing more facilities for the return of those Armed Forces personnel who by various reasons abandoned their service or duty and in consideration of Paragraph 8, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I approve the following provisions:

Article 1. The number of Armed Forces personnel who by various reasons refused [words indistinct], abandoned, or escaped from military service will not be prosecuted if they return to their units, companies, or relevant commissariat by 21 April 1992 for the continuation of service in the ranks of the Armed Forces provided they are not accused of committing intentional homicide or accused of taking part in (?attacks) on security posts resulting in the loss of life or accused of causing disorder in garrisons resulting to losses.

Article 2.

a. The amnesty applies also to those individuals who have been convicted and sentenced in absentia on charges of committing crimes embodied in Article 1 of this decree.

b. If prosecution has already been initiated against the perpetrators of crimes embodied in Article 1 of this decree the prosecution should be discontinued.

c. The investigation and followup of those individuals who have committed the crimes embodied in Article 1 of this decree, and who, prior to the issuing of this decree have voluntarily reported to the relevant units and companies, or who have been captured, shall be discontinued.

Article 3. The individuals affected by Article 1 of this decree who have taken away and lost light infantry weapons [words indistinct], Carabin or Papasha Kalashnikov, .303 Enfield rifle, light machinegun, light rocket launcher, ammunition, or uniforms in their possession, shall be excused from paying for the damages.

Article 4.

a. The (?consequential results) of punishment on the individuals embodied in this decree shall also be pardoned. [Word indistinct], resignation, demotion in duty or service are not applicable on these people. Their past term of duty or service shall be counted in the term of service.

b. Men of the Armed Forces who, on the basis of this decree, return to their units the term of their past service shall be counted in the term of their service.

Article 5. The Ministries of the Armed Forces and other relevant organs are commissioned to take necessary measures regarding [words indistict] of the individuals embodied in this decree.

Article 6. The provisions of this decree shall also be applied on those individuals who were covered by the expired decree No. 1540 dated 14 January 1991 which was then extended by decree No. 70 dated 31 March 1992 and further extended until 21 November by decree No. 710 dated [date indistinct] provided they have voluntarily surrendered themselves to the relevant units and commissions.

Article 7. The implementation of this decree is the duty of the relevant courts and prosecution offices.

Article 8. This decree comes into force from the date of issuing and shall be published in the press and official gazette.

[Signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan.

Najibollah Appoints Minister Without Portfolio

LD2302201192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The press office of the presidency reports that esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, has approved a proposal by the prime minister on the appointment of esteemed Hamidollah Tarzi as minister without portfolio. The decree assigns the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan with present

the proposal at the first session of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan for approval.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Turkmenistan

LD2302094592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abdorrahim Hatef of Afghanistan, who went to Turkmenistan for a working visit as the head of a delegation, returned to Kabul this afternoon.

The delegation was received at Kabul international airport by Vice President 'Abdol Hamid Mohtat; Prof. Dr. Wadir Safi, minister of civil aviation and tourism; the acting head of the International Affairs Department of the Presidency; the deputy head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the minister plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Russia in Kabul.

During its stay in Turkmenistan, the delegation met with Saparmurad Niyazov, while the head of parliament and the minister of foreign affairs of the republic were present. During the meeting, a message from the esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, was handed over to the president of Turkmenistan, who accepted it with gratitude. [passage indistinct] we support the policy of national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan declared by esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, and consider it a positive step for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. We support the request of Afghanistan for membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and consider this to be an effective step of action for the Republic of Afghanistan for the expansion of trade relations between the two countries through private entrepreneurs. The president of Turkmenistan emphasized the expansion of economic relations between the Republic of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Afghanistan, and accepted the invitation of esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, to visit Afghanistan; he invited esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, to pay a visit to Turkmenistan at a suitable opportunity. While 'Abdorrahim Hatef and Saparmurad Niyazov were present, a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations at the embassy level between the two countries was signed by Daud Kawian, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Avdy Kuliyev, minister of foreign affairs of Turkmenistan.

Later, the delegation met with those in charge of economic affairs of that country for (?talks) on the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, and it was agreed to sign protocols with the Afghan side during the eminent visit of the high- ranking delegation of that country to the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure the expansion of economic and technical cooperation. According to another report Mohammad Seddiq Seylani, minister of Islamic affairs and endowments of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with 'ulema and clergy of the Republic of Turkmenistan and presented them with a gift of printed Islamic works. Daud Kawian, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with Avdy Kuliyev, minister of foreign affairs of Turkmenistan, and spoke about the effectiveness of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Change in Pakistani Policy on Afghanistan Seen

LD2302202292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Commentary by BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] The genuine change in Pakistan's policy concerning the question of Afghanistan has been brought about by the prospects of Pakistan's political, economic, and industrial development and its international credibility. The reality of this prospect was revealed, better than by anyone else, at a press conference in Islamabad given by Sardar Asif Ali, Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs, after his tour of the independent states of Central Asia.

Heading a delegation, Sardar Asif Ali was trying to evaluate the possibilities for growth in cooperation between Pakistan and Central Asia and, like Turkey and Iran, to conclude economic and trade protocols with these countries. During its tour, the delegation realized the objective realities currently hampering the development of Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian countries. The minister of state for economic affairs therefore told reporters that Pakistan is ready to cooperate with the Central Asian countries in building a railroad from Central Asia to southwest Pakistan and the Arabian sea. Sardar Asif Ali emphasized that these countries were also very (?interested) in the project. However, he did not hide the fact that the leaders of the Central Asian countries are not in agreement with Pakistan's position in supporting the fundamentalists. He added that Pakistan's support for the fundamentalists, in particular Golboddin Hekmatyar, is an obstacle hampering relations with these countries.

These statements, reflecting the first signs of a change in Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan, attracted the attention of (?international) political circles. They were welcomed by political circles as a sound idea that expressed the interests of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan's national interests.

This idea has especially attracted the attention of Afghans. On 15 January the Afghan president, esteemed Najibollah stated the aspiration of the Afghan state and its people that Afghanistan is ready to be an economic partner and cooperator with its neighbors, instead of engaging in military rivalry with them. If the neighbors take one step on this path, the state of Afghanistan will take three steps toward them. Thus the statements of Sardar Asif Ali are in complete accord with that aspiration of the Afghan leadership.

Following these statements by Pakistan's minister of state for economic affairs, that country's minister of state for foreign affairs, Siddique Kanjoo also

announced at a press conference in Islamabad that the government of Pakistan supports the five-point UN plan on a political solution for the Afghan issue. He asked the Afghan mojahedin groups to take part in intra-Afghan dialogue in order to achieve peace.

General Asif Nawaz, Pakistan's chief of army staff, has said in this connection: The government of Pakistan will no longer follow the previous policy. Afghan policy will not be the monopoly of the military, the policy monopolized by General Zia ul Haq and Aslam Beg. General Asif Nawaz added: We are telling the Afghan armed groups and Pakistan's religious groups that the previous policy achieved nothing. The Afghan guerrillas should now embark on talks with representatives of the state of Afghanistan; the game played during the visit of the vice president of the Russian Federation is no longer tolerable. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry and military now entertain similar views and are advancing in this direction. Lyce Doucet, a BBC correspondent, has reported that Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that the Afghan problem will be resolved during the current year.

The Pakistani chief of staff has also said: Afghan mojahedin never speak with one voice when the aim is peace. So the UN peace plan cannot be left in the hands of just a few people.

The remarks of VOA reporter (Gerry Thomas) and the statement of the government of Pakistan about its support for the UN peace plan represent a matter of shame for the mojahedin who reject talks for achieving peace.

These developments have taken place besides the sincere and serious activities of Benon Sevan, the UN secretary general's representative, who recently visited Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and other countries involved. They have strengthened the hope that the people of Afghanistan will eventually get closer to peace and intra- Afghan understanding. The recent positive reaction of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to the new policy of Pakistan on resolving the Afghan problem on the basis of the UN secretary general's plan attests to the fact that the state of Afghanistan is ready to take practical steps for better political and economic relations with neighboring countries, especially Pakistan.

Specific proposals of Afghan Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, on the removal of transit and traffic problems between Afghanistan and Pakistan, such as the setting up of joint transport and haulage networks, the removal of port problems including building port facilities and buildings, creating a unitary system on tariffs, the removal of customs problems through the affiliation of both countries' customs, the revival of airline links to carry passengers and cargo to cities of the two countries, the development of an official unit for trade in order to protect the export and import balance, and the establishment of trade offices and the setting up of joint banks for mutual trade are all issues that show good intentions for good-neighborliness between the Republic of Afghanistan and neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. And this will indeed happen. If the other side, i.e. the Islamic Republic of Pakistan sincerely takes one step in line with its stand in principle, it will not only strengthen its relations with the countries in the region but will also enhance its international credibility and economic and trade development; moreover, the fraternal people of the two countries will live in an atmosphere of peace and friendship.

India

President Outlines Economic, Foreign Policy

BK2402100192 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0529 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Speech by President R. Venkataraman to joint session of Parliament at Parliament House in New Delhi—live]

[Text] Honorable members, I welcome you to this first session of Parliament in 1992 and wish you the very best for the successful completion of the budgetary and legislative business ahead. I extend a special welcome to the new members from Punjab. [applause] The government had given an assurance that the elections would be held in Punjab in February 1992. Despite many serious problems, this assurance has been fulfilled.

Members are aware that the state of Punjab has been facing terrorist violence for the past decade and many innocent lives have been lost. The brave people of Punjab deserve to be congratulated for the courage they have displayed [applause] in reaffirming their faith in the democratic process and in abiding values of secularism and nationhood. The government is committed to finding a just and amicable solution to all the outstanding issues in Punjab. The Rajiv-Longowal accord was a step in this direction. The presence of elected representatives will strengthen a meaningful dialogue and the participation in the process of all sections in the state.

The involvement of forces across the border in aiding, arming, and providing logistic support to terrorists in Kashmir is now well known. Pakistan has continued its massive propaganda and disinformation campaign to defame India and to divert world attention from its overt and covert support to the terrorists.

Terrorist action has taken a heavy toll of innocent lives. For two years the normal life of the people in the state has been dislocated. A section of the population has been forced to flee the state and to take shelter outside. No doubt, all efforts are being made to take care of the needs of those who have migrated. But a solution to the problem lies in their return to their own homes where they can be resettled in safety.

The government has launched a massive operation against terrorists with the help of the army. All-out

efforts have been made to stop the border infiltration. The recent efforts by terrorists to make massive intrusions across the Line of Control [in Kashmir] created a serious threat to peace in that area. Action, though belated, on the ground by Pakistan and diplomatic moves by the government succeeded in meeting this grave threat. Some groups of terrorists have surrendered along with their arms. Discussions have been held in different forums to activate a meaningful integration with the people. The government is, at the same time, continuing its efforts at increasing the pace of economic development in the state and expanding employment opportunities. An advisory council has also been set up at the state level. The government will be willing to consider any dialogue within the framework of the Constitution to restore normalcy.

In the eastern part of the country, the army had to be deployed in Assam from September 1991 to restore peace and normalcy. The security forces have apprehended a large number of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists and seized their weapons. Some activists have also surrendered voluntarily. ULFA has released all hostages and has unilaterally declared suspension of its agitation. ULFA has shown willingness to hold negotiations with the government to find an amicable solution to the problems of Assam within the framework of the Constitution. The Army operations in Assam have been suspended, pending a dialogue with the ULFA.

A close watch is being kept on situation arising out of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [Hindu temple-Muslim mosque] dispute. The government has enacted a legislation to maintain the status quo of other places of worship as they existed on 15 August 1947. Action has been completed to set up a foundation for communal harmony to take care of children of families affected by commmunal violence.

One of the commitments of the government was to establish a competent rapid action force to quell communal riots. All necessary decisions in this regard have been taken. The course has been fixed.

It may be recalled that in the last session parliament had met a long-standing demand of the people by enacting legislation to give the union terriory of Delhi a legislative assembly and a council of ministers. The government has initiated steps for delimiting constituencies with a view to holding early elections.

In my last address, I had spoken of the need to take hard decisions to overcome the grim economic situation confronting the country. The government has moved swiftly to deal with the crisis. The balance of payment problem has been successfully handled. Our reserves of foreign exchange today stand at over 10,000 crores. We have redeemed the gold we had pledged and we arrested the outflow of capital. International confidence is being restored. At the same time, the government has initiated steps to restructure the economy for greater productivity and growth. Changes have been made in industrial, fiscal, and trade policies. This process of change will continue. It will have to be extended to other important sectors of the economy.

The new industrial policy aims at consolidating the gains of the past decade and imparting a fresh impetus to Indian industry for enhancing its efficiency and productivity. The policy has already shown significant results. In the period after the policy changes were announced, the number of investment proposals have doubled compared to the same period last year. Approvals for foreign investment and technical collaboration also showed a similar trend. Along with changes in industrial policy, a policy package for support to small-scale industry has been announced. The small-scale and tiny sector will continue to play an important role in providing employment and contributing to industrial output. With the changes that have been brought about in the industrial policy, the state governments have a major role to play in promoting industrial development. The central government will continue to interact with them to ensure that the benefits of the liberalized policy reach all corners of the country.

We place great emphasis on exports. Despite an unavoidable import compression of 20 percent, exports to general currency area of countries have shown modest growth of six percent in dollar terms. External obstacles on exports to rupee payment area have, however, affected the overall export growth. Efforts are being made to restore trade with republics of the former Soviet Union and framework agreements are being entered into with all of them.

The government is fully conscious of the need to protect the interests of those workers who may be affected by restructuring. [President Venkataraman's address is interrupted by shouting by unidentified members of Parliament, and Venkataraman, who continues to speak throughout the interruption, cannot be heard above the shouting for about 3 minutes.] The policy approach of the Eighth [five-year development] Plan has also been endorsed by the states at the recent meeting of the National Development Council.

The government is confident that the economy will soon be on a sustainable and stable course of development. Growth rates have been encouraging in several technical infrastructural areas like electricity, coal, steel and cement. The government is committed to further strengthening infrastructure. Every effort will be made to step up power supply and make it more stable. The development of atomic energy and non-conventional energy sources will receive high priority.

The importance of an effective communication system for the country's development cannot be overstated. These will be strengthened. Every effort will be made to increase the capacity and the transport capability of the highway network. A new shipping policy is being initiated. A major restructuring of the Indian Airlines and

Air India is envisaged which will ensure modernization of the fleet and support facilities. The network of telecommunication services, particularly in rural areas, will be substantially extended.

The progress made by the country in the field of science and technology is a matter of pride. To cite only a few, the indigenous fabrication of the second generation INSAT-2 series of satellites is proceeding according to schedule. INSAT-2A is expected to be launched next month. With the planned launching of satellite launch vehicles in the next one year, India will join the line of those few countries which have their own launch capability.

The limitless potential of biotechnology, which is of direct relevance to areas as diverse as agriculture, pisciculture, and health, will be exploited to the full. The exciting possibilities of elctronics will be followed up so that it brings tangible benefits to our people. The development of new contraceptive pills is a general example of the benefits to our people through scientific advance. Even while reaching out to frontier areas, science and technological research must in final analyses be closely linked to improving the quality of life of our masses. While doing everything possible to accelerate the pace of growth, there must be environmental accountability all around on the part of the government, industry, and the people.

A scheme of financial incentives and disincentives to supplement the normal regulatory measure to achieve this purpose is proposed to take up during the Eighth Five-Year Plan—a scheme of associating tribals and rural poor in afforestation of degraded forests on a usufruct sharing basis. This plan development program launched in 1985 will be strengthened and it is proposed to take up the integrated development of micro water sheds in 50 districts in the country. With the experience gained in the cleaning of River Ganga, the government proposes to take up a cleaning of major tributaries of this river and the grossly polluted stretches of other major rivers under the National River Action Plan. India looks forward to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and will look toward ensuring that the conference safeguards the interests of the developing countries.

One of the world's worst industrial tragedies took place in Bhopal on 2 December 1984. The aftermath of this event has scarred the lives of thousands of people. The Government of India has taken upon itself the responsibility to secure compensation for those affected and provide them relief. The legal process has been completed by the directive of the Supreme Court on 3 October 1991. The government will ensure maximum relief to the victims.

The tourism sector has emerged as one of the largest foreign exchange earners providing employment to many. The government has launched a major initiative to accelerate growth of tourism in cooperation with the state governments, travel trade, and hotel industry. It has already started yielding results and tourist arrivals have picked up recording the highest level of international tourist arrivals in December 1991. The government's tourism action plan includes tourist facilities at international airports, liberalized charter policy, creation of special tourism areas for integrated development, and intensive marketing of selected destinations along with a major thrust to the promotion of domestic and low-budget tourism. Our people must be provided with adequate facilities so that they get to see and to know their own country better. With this in view, government will focus on youth tourism.

The foundation of our future security and progress lies to a great extent in agricultural growth. The dramatic progress we have made in agriculture, including input growth, horticulture, fisheries, animal breeding, and poultry has a lot to do with the progress in our research laboratories, but more than all else it is the story of the life of the Indian farmer, his grit and determination. 1990-91 was the third agriculture year in succession that a new record in foodgrain production was achieved. During 1991-92, the southwest monsoon was erratic in its temporal and special behavior and some fall in production is likely. While our researchers are now producing technologies to offset the vagaries of weather, more intensive efforts have to be organized in the long term for improvement of land and productivity in rain-fed areas since 70 percent of India's agriculture is based on rain-fed farming.

The government has already taken up a massive program for improving the productive potential of the rain-fed land through improved crop practices, effective pest control, prevention of soil erosion, and better insitu moisture conservation. During the Eighth Plan, horticulture, animal husbandry, livestock development, and agro-processing will be given high priority. Cooperative and research efforts will be intensified in sheep, poultry, and piggery sector. Processing and marketing facilities will (?be easier) and other areas will be strengthened in order to create the right conditions for an increase in rural incomes. The first emphasis will be on increasing productivity of oil seeds, pulses, cereals, and diversification of agriculture for income and job generation, especially in rural areas.

Recently, issues associated with sharing and allocation of water between the states have been generating passions and tension. It will have to be ensured that water, one of nature's precious gifts, is shared in an equitable manner in the larger national interest.

Water is a flowing entity, variable in quantity from year to year and season to season. It should be managed in a harmonious manner in a spirit of understanding and cooperation between the areas (?served by it). Our rivers should be binding force for the people of different regions rather than a matter of discord. Every effort should be made to resolve through dialogue all disputes relating to the use of water of any interstate river. Should

this not be possible, the government will ensure expeditious settlement of the dispute through the adjudication machinery set up by law for this purpose.

Effective measures are being taken to generate greater employment opportunities for the most disadvantaged sections through integrated rural development program and Jawahar Rojgar Yojna [employment scheme]. Special efforts will be made to expand employment opportunities for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and women. No effort will be spared to provide safe drinking water to our people, on which depends the state of their health. All identified no-source-village problems will be provided with drinking water source by end of 1992-93. In recognition of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's commitment to provide safe drinking water to the remotest of remote villages, the government has renamed the technology mission on drinking water for rural areas as the Rajiv Gandhi national drinking water scheme. [applause] [Passage indistinct due to interruptions by unidentified members of Parliament.]

The government is committed to the eradication of the dehumanizing practice of manual scavenging through low-cost sanitation schemes through a time-bound program. Schemes for the conversion of dry latrines into low-cost sanitation units have been already approved for over 740 towns in the country. Rehabilitation of those engaged in the practice of scavenging is also being undertaken. The government has decided to bring a legislation under Article 252 of the Constitution, making the practice of engaging manual scavengers an offense.

A constitution amendment bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha with a view to strengthening urban local bodies so that they are able to provide better facilities and services to the people. The government is acutely conscious of the problems of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. [Passage indistinct due to interruptions from unidentified members of Parliament members.] To broaden the job opportunities for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the government has been taking measures to increase their representation in government departments and public sector undertakings and banks. With this objective in view, a third special recruitment drive is under way at present in accordance with the commitment given by the address last year. A national backward classes finance and development corporation has been set up with (?original) capital of 200 crore rupees to promote the economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes.

In my last address I had mentioned that steps would be initiated for the effective implementation of the 15-point program for the welfare of minorities, which seeks to ensure that minorities are protected and that they are not discriminated against in the matter of employment and in public service and benefits from development schemes. [applause] To realize this objective, the 15-point program is now being recast to make it more effective. The government has decided to confer statutory status to [words indistinct] Rehabilitation Council of India. The council sets the standards for manpower training for rehabilitation of the disabled.

The government has also decided to introduce a legislation for setting up a national trust for the welfare of persons suffering from mental retardation and cerebral palsy. The government will give high priority to needs of children and women, the most vulnerable groups in our society. The government will expand the [word indistinct] program during the Eighth Plan so as to cover the entire country. The girl child will receive particular attention with focus on her nutrition, health, education needs.

The government is aware that mere legislative and administrative and judicial protection of women is not enough. The ultimate answer to the question of women's equality lies in their empowerment to organizing them to defend their social and economic rights and in creation of better income and self-employment opportunities. The government, therefore, would implement the Indira Mahila Yojna [women's welfare scheme]. [applause] Toward this end, the government has constituted the national commission for women.

The government attaches the highest priority to ensuring that no uncertainty whatsoever exists in the people getting their basic daily necessities. To this end, the government will make all-out efforts to strengthen the public distribution system. The cornerstone of the government policy here would be vigilance and supervision over distribution at the village level involving local initiative and entrustment of these responsibilites to women in particular in order to fight leakages and malpractices.

While efforts to improve the functioning of the public distribution system all over the country will receive attention, priority will be given to implement and revamp the public distribution system in about 1,700 blocks spread over the remotest and most backward areas of the country, such as those covered by the integrated tribal development projects, the drought-prone areas program, the desert development program, the designated hill areas, and urban slums. To ensure doorstep delivery of essential commodities to fair price shops, infrastructures and credit facilities would be improved and strengthened.

Commodity coverage in public distribution system would be broadened. Measures in this direction have already been initiated in close cooperation with the state governments. The Essential Commodities Act 1955 is being strictly enforced against hoarders and black marketeers to (?enhance) and sustain availability of essential commodities and this drive will continue. Government looks upon public distribution system as the center of a new social development focus to be imparted to its various anti-poverty schemes. Appropriate linkages will be forged with all programs like the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna [employment scheme] and ICDS [Integrated Child Development Scheme].

All-out efforts are being made to protect and promote the rights and interests of the consumers. At present, 28 state commissions and 360 district forums are functioning in the country under the Consumer Protection Act 1986. The chief ministers have been requested to set up the remaining state commissions and district forums and to ensure that they function effectively. Eighty-two percent of the 33,851 complaints filed before the district courts have been decided in favor of the consumers. Government has recently received the report of the high-powered working group constituted to suggest amendments to the Consumer Protection Act 1986. The report is presently under examination. The recommendations of the working group on the amendments required to make Consumer Protection Act 1986 more effective will be discussed in the central consumer protection council shortly.

The government is implementing 14 national health programs, including the malaria eradication program, leprosy eradication program, control of blindness, and AIDS control program. Kala-azar [a serious infectious disease] is being reported year after year and in recent times it has assumed epidemic proportions in Bihar. This needs to be tackled on a war-footing. There is also an emerging problem of AIDS. The government has already prepared a program to deal with this menace taking into account, among others, the crucial factor of blood safety. There has been a dramatic reduction in the prevalence rates of leprosy and improvement in the discharge of [word indistinct]. A comprehensive program is proposed to be taken to permanently upgrade ophthalmic facilities at the district and community health center levels. There has been generally a declining trend of incidents of vaccine-preventable diseases. Poliomyelitis cases have significantly declined. Declining trends in the cases of whooping cough and diptheria are also significant.

The rate at which our population is growing will put tremendous pressures on our resources. The government has taken steps in recent months to evolve and integrate a holistic approach to achieve a marked decline in the birth rate. Toward this end, an action plan has been drawn up which seeks to improve the quality and outreach services. It is now proven that birth rate has remained high in areas of low female literacy and low age of girls at marriage. It is in these areas that special efforts will be concentrated under the action plan. Particular attention will be given to 90 districts in the country which have a crude birth rate of over 39 per 1000. The action plan was scrutinized and endorsed by the National Development Council and the meeting of the state health and family welfare ministers. The National Development Council has also set up a subcommittee of chief ministers on population control to act as a focal point for all the measures under this action plan.

The problem of population is not a concern confined merely to the central and the state governments. Elected representatives, voluntary organizations, our leaders of public opinion, indeed each one of us, cutting across all sections of the society, will have to participate in these efforts. A national conference on this is the need of the hour and parliament has to take the lead in this matter. [applause].

A national policy on education was adopted by parliament in 1986 and its implementation commenced soon thereafter. Several developments in the sphere of education and the report of the NPE [expansion unknown] review committee made it necessary to examine the need for modifications in the education policy. The process of examination is soon to conclude and I am confident that uncertainty in respect of the policy will now be set at rest, (?redebating) the main thrust of the 1986 policy. A national literacy mission which was launched by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in May 1988 has made significant strides.

I share with you a sense of pride in the fact that all the districts of Kerala and Pondicherry as well as several in other states have succeeded in eradicating illiteracy. [applause]. Total literacy campaigns are at present being implemented in nearly 70 districts in the country. The campaigns in these districts will cover nearly 30 million illiterates in various age groups and will cost 210 crores [rupees]. The campaings are being implemented with active cooperation and support of voluntary agencies. We, however, still have a long way to go and need to commit ourselves to the great challenging task of freeing all parts of the country of illiteracy, particularly in the 15-35 age group, by the end of the Eighth Plan.

We have simultaneously to work toward universalization of primary education comprising universal access, universal participation, and universal achievement of minimum levels of (?life). The formal system of primary education has been strengthened and a centrally sponsored scheme for Operation Blackboard, which is designed to provide necessary infrastructure [to] 3.8 lakh schools out of the total of 5.7 lakhs in the country, have already been covered. More than 70,000 additional teachers have been appointed. Assistance by the central government to the tune of 620 crores has already been provided. In addition, to provide learning opportunities to all children who are not in a position to avail themselves of school facilities, 2.45 lakh centers of non-formal education are being conducted by state governments. Another 27,000 are being conducted by 410 voluntary agencies. Central assistance to the tune of 208 crore has been provided toward this effort.

We also need to effectively delink degrees from jobs and to give to the entire education system a work and vocational orientation. A decision has already been taken to set up a central institute of vocational education and a national council of education, research, and training. The institutes will actively promote the vocationalization of education. The need to persist with attention on improvements of technical education is obvious. It is essential to create conditions for much greater rigor in teaching and research and to enlarge the number of institutions pursuing standards of excellence.

Events on the world scene have continued to unfurl at an amazing pace since I addressed the Parliament in June last year. The ensuing period has been an extremely active one in India's foreign policy. The government foreign policy priorities are to maintain the unity and territorial integrity of India, to ensure our geopolitical security, and to create a durable environment of stability and peace in our region and to build up a framework conducive for the economic well-being of our people by encouraging a healthy external economic environment.

Within this overall framewrok of priorities, we are, of course, not only conscious of our geographic situation, but we are aware that our destiny lies in Asia, more especially in South Asia. The very fact that the first Asian relations conference was convened by India as early as 1947 bears witness to the fact that this has been the central pillar of independent India's foreign policy from the very beginning. India's policies are geared to be a part of resurgent Asia and it is our hope that the 21st century would be an Asian century. [applause]

Strengthening relations with our neighbors on bilateral basis as well as through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is of the highest priority. The recent SAARC summit held in Colombo last December should hopefully impart economic content to growing cooperation among the South Asian countries within the SAARC framework. The recent visit of the prime minister of Nepal has ushered in a qualitatively new era of relationship between the two countries, resulting in opening very important areas of cooperation which will fortify the unique closeness of our ties strengthened by the emergence of multiparty democracy in Nepal.

The recent visit of the Chinese prime minister has been an important milestone in the further development of our relations. We have enhanced our mutual understanding through exchange of views on bilateral, regional, and international issues at high levels.

We are keen that the traditionally friendly relations with Bangladesh are further expanded in the changed context with the advent of democracy in Bangladesh becoming an additional bond between our two countries. We are committed to the strengthening and consolidation of bilateral relations with Sri Lanka in keeping with the traditional and historic ties between our two countries. The voluntary return of Sri Lankan refugees back to their homeland, based on the assurances received from the Sri Lankan Government, commenced on 20 January 1992 and is continuing. Our close relations with Maldives are being further consolidated with a number of exchange of visits at high level between the two countries during 1991.

Periodic high-level exchanges have helped to maintain and strengthen close understanding and cooperation in our excellent relations with Bhutan.

Pakistan's negative approach toward India and its support for terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir continue to be the main impediment to normalization of relations. The dangers inherent in such actions in violation of the Simla Agreement and universally accepted norms in interstate conduct have been repeatedly pointed out to Pakistan. We have, nevertheless, continued with our efforts to carry the confidence-building process and bilateral dialogue forward. Unfortunately, in the recent past the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan National Assembly have chosen to associate themselves with the statements and actions that have vitiated the atmosphere. We hope that the Government of Pakistan will join us in serious endeavors to establish tension-free and good-neighborly relations between our two countries.

On 21 December 1991 we announced our decision to accord formal recognition to the Russian Federation and to all other republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Russia has assumed the role of the successor state and has taken over the seat of the erstwhile Soviet Union in the United Nations Security Council. We are sure to maintain our traditionally close relations not only with Russia, but with other republics as well. In addition to our embassy in Moscow, we plan to open embassies in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus and update our consulate general in Tashkent in Uzbekistan.

A high-level delegation recently visited Russia and Ukraine to establish a new framework of political relations with these independent republics and to review arrangements for maintaining our long-standing trade and economic links with them. Several leaders from the Central Asian Republics have visited and are expected to visit India during the next few months. During these visits we shall seek to conclude appropriate agreements to promote our political, economic, commercial, and cultural ties wih these countries, with whom we share historic bonds of friendship.

The values of democracy, individual liberty, and respect for human rights which we share with the United States of America provides a strong basis for close cooperation between the two largest democracies of the world. Our expanding consultations in both bilateral and multilateral forums encompass a wide range of issues, including peace, security, and threats emanating from terrorism and drug trafficking. The United States is our largest trading partner and a major source of technology. It has been supportive of our efforts to overcome our temporary economic difficulties and launch a far-reaching program of economic reforms. We look forward to a long-term and mutually rewarding economic cooperation with the United States. The prime minister had a very useful meeting with President George Bush in New York during the recent UN Security Council meeting. There was a strong mutual interest expressed in further consolidation and expanding of bilateral and multilateral ties.

We attach special importance to our relations with the countries of West Asia and North Africa. We have over the years extended consistent and unequivocal support to the Arab cause, particularly to the Palestinian struggle

for their just and inalienable rights. India has welcomed the reactivization of the West Asian peace process and the ongoing dialogue between Arab states and Israel to find a just and equitable settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute. Given the changed political realities in the region, India has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. We look forward to establishing a comprehensive and multifaceted relationship with Israel.

India enjoys an enormous fund of goodwill with African countries because of the consistent and effective support to anti-colonial struggle in South Africa. We are proud that the liberation struggle in South Africa against apartheid has yielded tangible results since 1990.

We have played a catalyst's role in the efforts to solve the Cambodian conflict. India was among the countries especially mentioned in the Paris International Conference on Cambodia for facilitating the peace process. We have demonstrated our support against attempts to institutionalize racial discrimination in Fiji while taking up the matter in the UN General Assembly from 1987 onward and by opposing the re-entry of Fiji into the Commonwealth.

Japan's position as an economic superpower in the present world draws us closer to enlarge our bilateral cooperation on a wide range of matters of mutual concern, which we believe is an important factor for peace and progress.

We have enjoyed age-old cultural and bilateral ties with the countries of Southeast Asia. This is a region which has made rapid progress in a very short time. The economic initiatives taken by the government will create fresh opportunities for strengthening our economic interaction with this region. The government attaches highest priority to strengthening our relations with ASEAN and its member countries. We look forward to initiating our sectorial dialogue with the ASEAN shortly.

Europe's emergence following the Madrid summit meeting last December as a strong political and economic entity in the modern world is of great significance. The European Community is our major trading partner and an important source of investment, and we are keen to expand and strengthen further our cooperation. Our prime minister's first visit abroad was to Germany where he discussed with the German leaders a wide range of subjects of mutual concern and cooperation between these two countries. We have also had a useful dialogue with other major European countries like the United Kingdom, France, and Portugal.

With the sweeping changes brought about by the recent events at the end of the cold war and issues connected therewith, a new configuration is bound to assume a new North-South complexion in the framework of a non-confrontational context and methodology.

The developing countries in the world will need to care for themselves by the new odyssey of development aimed at the attainment of equitable prosperity all over the world. World peace and comprehensive disarmament would make an important contribution to this ultimate vision of happy and fulfilled humankind. India will work toward the realization of this vision.

At multilateral level, our participation has similarly been within our overall framework of priority. The Non-aligned Movement is readjusting in a dynamic manner to the breath-taking pace of global developments. We have reaffirmed our faith in these continued developments. The indepedence of national decision-making that is enshrined in the philosophy is today more relevant than ever before. In other multilateral fora such as the G-15 and the Commonwealth summit, the prime minister not only articulated our views on important issues but reemphasized the need to restore this centrality and [word indistinct] of development issues on the multilateral agenda.

The Uruguay round of negotiations has reached a crucial stage. We shall continue to defend our right of interest and seek improvement as we work toward the establishment of a fair and balanced multilateral trading system. Environmental issues are fast moving into the forefront of international concern and attention. We are actively participating in multilateral cooperative effort and supporting the forging of global partnership which seeks to integrate the developmental needs of the developing countries in solution to the environmental progress.

We believe that given the global reach of nuclear weapons, we need to follow a global approach with regard to nuclear disarmament issues. Partial or piecemeal measures, such as limited nuclear- weapon-free zones, therefore seem to be of little utility and could even detract from our ultimate goal.

The summit-level meeting of the UN Security Council on 31 January 1992 served to highlight a new and effective role that the UN has assumed, and in the wake of the momentous changes in the international situation our prime minister set forth at the meeting our position on some vital issues such as the new international conferences on global nonproliferation regime, harmonization of defense and national integrity with respect to human rights, and a just and fair world economic order. The meeting provided an opportunity for world leaders to exchange ideas on the future of the United Nations and to pledge their support to the UN secretary general.

India is on the threashold of taking rapid and purposeful strides in the future. Conditions are being created so that there is an acceleration in the pace of development. Our people can enjoy a better quality of life and India can hold her own in a rapidly changing world. The present is full of challenges as well as opportunities. Let us convert the challenges into opportunities. Let us not shy away from treading new paths. Let us be bold and innovative in our approach. The hardships of the present are only the harbingers of a bright future. But even as we move into the future, let us be disciplined and resolute in our

approach. Let us shun acrimony for dialogue, violence for amity, lest we be deflected into the bylanes of history.

Honorable members will be called upon to consider in the session important legislative business and other matters of great national importance. Their deliberations will, I am sure, be informed by reflection and wisdom. I now commend you to your path and wish you all success. Jai Hind [Hail India]. [applause]

Pawar—No Differences With Rao on Economic Policy

BK2402160292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has made it clear that he has no difference of opinion with the prime minister on the new economic policy. He regretted that the press had blown up out of proportion his note to the prime minister. Mr. Pawar said the note had been sent in response to a circular from the prime minister seeking the opinion of the union ministers on the policy.

Punjab Congress-I Leader Asked To Form Cabinet

BK2402160792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The Punjab Governor Mr. Surendra Nath, has invited the leader of the state Congress-I legislature party, Mr. Beant Singh, to form the government. The swearing-in ceremony will be held tomorrow at 1100 [0530 GMT]. This will bring to an end the 57-month-old president's rule in the state.

Later, talking to our Chandigarh correspondent, Mr. Beant Singh said that he will have a three-tier ministry. He said the foremost priority of his government will be restoration of normalcy in the state. He said conditions will be created for the return of the misguided youth to the national mainstream. Mr. Beant Singh later left for New Delhi for consultations with the party high command.

Mr. Beant Singh was earlier elected unanimously as the leader of the Congress-I legislature party at a meeting held in Chandigarh. His name was proposed by senior party leader Mr. H.S. Brar and seconded by Dr. Kewal Krishnan.

Beant Singh Sworn In

BK2502081092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A 26-member Congress-I ministry headed by Mr. Beant Singh has been sworn in in Punjab. The oath of office was administered by the state governor, Mr. Surendra Nath, at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan [governor house] in Chandigarh this morning. The ministry includes 12 members of cabinet rank and 14 ministers of state.

Kashmir Strike Protests Burning of Mosque Library

BK2502102492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Jammu, India, Feb 25 (AFP)—A general strike called by Muslim separatists to protest the burning of a mosque library crippled the Kashmir valley for the third day Tuesday, rebel sources said.

All shops, hotels, offices and schools and colleges remained closed throughout the Muslim-majority valley, the sources said by telephone from Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

The protestors had however exempted both private and state-owned transport.

Muslim militants battling to secede Kashmir state have accused Indian security forces of setting fire to the library of the Hazratbal mosque on February 21, and have formed voluntary groups to try to restore damaged copies of Islamic scriptures.

The Kashmir government has denied the charge, saying the fire was triggered after militants opened fire on security troops.

India and Pakistan dispute the ownership of Kashmir, and have gone to war twice over the border province. Parts of the state are controlled by New Delhi and Islamabad.

In Srinagar, Muslim militants called for an end to gun battles between two Kashmiri guerrilla groups, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Al Umar Mojahedin (AUM).

The factional clashes, which broke out Sunday, have left two members from each group and a girl dead.

The fighting followed the reported defection of some AUM activists to the more powerful JKLF, which seeks complete independence for Kashmir. Other Kashmiri groups want Indian-held Kashmir to join Pakistan.

Rebel sources said intermediaries were working round-the-clock to find a solution to the factional dispute.

On Monday, JKLF chairman Ammanullah Khan, who lives in Pakistan, said he regretted reports of clashes between the JKLF and AUM and urged them to resolve their differences to accelerate the "freedom movement."

Army, Pakistani Troops Exchange Fire at Border

BK2402163092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Jammu, India, Feb 24 (AFP)—Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy weapons fire on the line of control dividing Indian and Pakistani-held Kashmir, leaving one dead, an Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said here Monday.

The spokesman said initial reports indicated one Pakistani had died and 11 troopers on both sides were seriously injured in the shooting, which erupted Sunday night in the Kirin sector of the line some 250 kilometres (155 miles) from here.

He said the artillery and heavy weapons duel on the sensitive line, where the two armies are within site of one another, started when Pakistani troops crossed the frontier and began digging new trenches.

Indian troops "objected," the spokesman said without elaborating, and the Pakistanis resorted to "indiscriminate firing and shelling without any provocation from the Indian side."

The Indians then retaliated "with full strength," he said, adding that the exchange continued until early Monday.

The spokesman attributed the higher number of casualties on the Pakistani side—one dead and six seriously injured as compared to five seriously injured on the Indian side—to the Pakistanis who were digging being easy targets.

Exchanges of fire frequently break out on the line of control in Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two wars.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri separatists on the Indian side, charges which Islamabad denies.

Budget Documents Said Leaked to World Bank

BK2502090092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The Rajya Sabha witnessed noisy scenes and the business obstructed for nearly 40 minutes over reports of leakage of budget proposals to the World Bank. As soon as the house assembled for the day, the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, wanted the suspension of the question-hour and insisted that the privilege notice given by him against the finance minister be taken up. He said he has documents to prove and is not depending merely on the newspaper reports. The national front, Left, and the SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] members also demanded that the issue be taken up immediately. The chairman, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, told the Opposition that the finance minister is entitled to give his version and said he will take a decision on the notice at the earliest.

The Lok Sabha witnessed uproarious scenes and the question-hour proceedings were stalled for nearly 10 minutes over a newspaper report alleging access of the budget document to the World Bank.

Iran

Velayati Comments on Azerbaijan-Armenia Mediation

LD2402225692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Following the requests by the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia to the Islamic Republic of Iran to try to resolve the border dispute between the two republics, Foreign Minister Velayati left for Baku on Monday evening to review the situation in the region and to learn the views of the two sides. He is heading a high-ranking diplomatic delegation.

According to an IRNA report, before his departure the foreign minister said: My trips to Azerbaijan and Armenia are aimed at reviewing the existing facts in the region. It is by way of Iran's first step at mediation. He said: During this trip we will try to review the matter away from the propaganda hue and cry. He added: Iran has certain proposals to resolve the dispute, but considers any mediation proposal premature before holding talks with both sides. He said: Iran's proposal to resolve the dispute will undoubtedly be based on facts. At the same time, the foreign minister did not reject the possibility of putting forward a proposal to resolve the dispute during his trip to Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, he said, the matter will depend on the outcome of talks with the two countries' authorities and a close appraisal of the dispute. He said: The matter will not be concluded by hurried and speedy action, as previous attempts at mediation have failed.

During his trip to Azerbaijan, Mr. Velayati will hold talks with the president and other officials of that country and will also visit the Karabakh region. The Iranian foreign minister and the high-ranking diplomatic delegation will go to Yerevan next Wednesday to hold talks with Armenian authorities.

Simultaneous with the trip by Mr. Velayati and the high-ranking Iranian diplomatic delegation to the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, our country's Foreign Ministry announced on Monday evening: Out of a sense of duty, the Islamic Republic of Iran will do its best for the establishment and strengthening of peace and stability in the region and to help peacefully resolve the current clashes between the two neighboring countries, which have thus far caused heavy losses and casualties.

Majles Calls For Armenia-Azerbaijan Cease-Fire

LD2502114592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The bill relating to the determination of the level of new year [beginning 21 March] and annual bonuses for workers employed in workshops falling under the jurisdiction of the employment law, which has a double urgency priority, was discussed at today's open

Majlis session in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians. The bill was approved. [passage omitted]

In today's open session, the deputies signed a letter describing the conflicts between the newly independent republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia as another of global arrogance's conspiracies. They stressed: We, the deputies of the Iranian nation, do not consider war and bloodshed to be to the advantage of either side. We call on the warring parties to establish a full and immediate cease-fire and to use their manpower and resources for the reconstruction and advancement of their countries. In the letter, the deputies express their full support for the steps being taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran's government and ask that mediation efforts be pursued until the attainment of a positive outcome.

It is worth mentioning that when the members of the Council of Guardians met today after taking part in the open Majles session, they decided that the bill related to new year and annual bonuses for workers employed in workshops falling under the jurisdication of the employment law is not contrary to the Shari'ah or the Constitution.

IRNA Notes Implications of Attack on Lebanon

LD2302215692 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—The brutal attack earlier this week by the Zionist regime against southern Lebanon shifted world attention from tense Algeria to the Middle East.

Zionist helicopters last week fired rockets on the car carrying the secretary general of the Hizballah in Lebanon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, martyring the respected cleric, his wife, a six-year old son and several companions.

In the wake of retaliatory raids by Hizballah against the crime, the terrorist state of Israel launched fresh attacks against southern Lebanon without sparing even the United Nations troops.

Tel Aviv thought of pre-emptive attacks against the Hizballah of Lebanon so that the Hizballah would not be able to respond to the Zionist attack, and also in a bid to expand its seized lands by occupying more areas.

Some observers say that by its aggression on southern Lebanon this time the Zionist regime has adversely affected the talks due to start in Washington next week, although because of Washington's support for Tel Aviv and also because of the atrocities of the conciliating Arab regimes towards the Hizballah, Israel is assured that its recent wave of attacks against southern Lebanon will not be a disadvantage for it in the talks for appeasement.

To Tel Aviv and Washington the wiping out of the Hizballah means the ouster of the most adamantine opponent to the peace talks between the club of appeasing Arabs and the Zionist regime, and the timing of the Zionists' attacks indicates a conspiracy for surmounting a big obstacle to the so-called peace talks, and for strengthening the position of the Zionists against the Arabs side to the talks.

The pre-mature release of the Western hostages from the custody of the Hizballah, which would otherwise have preoccupied the westerners, gave a somewhat larger elbow-room to the Zionists in their fresh aggression on southern Lebanon.

Despite all that the firm resistance by the revolutionary Muslims in southern Lebanon against the Zionist forces indicates that they do not fear the complex military hardware of the terrorist state, but that they are prepared to repeat the 1982 nightmare if the Zionists are foolhardy to prolong confrontation.

For the moment the enemy has turned tail and retreated back in the face of heroic resistance despite all its armed superiority.

However, in spite all calculations by the Zionists it is still debatable if the talks will offer the Zionist regime anything substantial, although more obviously both the Zionists as well as their supporters will soon have to suffer from the outcome of their plot against militant Muslims in Lebanon.

Afghan Shiite Assembly Ends in Tehran

NC2402153992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The third session of the Afghan Shiite Assembly ended in Tehran last night issuing a resolution which points out that the entire Afghan population should choose the future Afghanistan Government. The resolution also emphasizes the need to form an Islamic and nonaligned government in Afghanistan.

Participants noted that forming a transitional government to solve the Afghan people's problem is imperative and welcomed the UN secretary general's efforts to return peace to the country.

The Afghan Shiite Assembly has asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to strive to convene a congress of political leaders, mojahedin commanders, 'ulema, and representatives of the people, fulfilling the principle of national unity.

In the assembly's last meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati referred to the Afghan people's wish for Islamic rule and said: The Afghanistan solution should be based on the will of its Muslim nation and conditions should be created to enable that nation to use all its capabilities for its future life. The foreign minister referred to the established ties between Iran and Afghanistan and to our country's continuing aid to the deprived Afghan people, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized the indisputable principles of the need to grant the Afghan nation the right to determine its destiny.

During the meeting, Major General Mohsen Reza'i, general commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and Information Minister Fallahian spoke of the need for the Muslim Afghans' unity and fraternity and for Afghanistan's revolutionary and combatant forces to be present in political affairs.

Reconstruction of Offshore Oil Fields Reported

LD2502095292 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA—Phase-1 of reconstruction work has been completed on Bahrgan and Hendijan off-shore oil fields in the Persian Gulf, which were closed since the start of the Iraqi war in September 1980, an oil ministry official said here today.

"Once fully repaired, Bahrgan will produce some 20,000 barrels of oil per day," Seyyed Mostafa Kho'i, managing drector of Iran's off-shore oil company told IRNA.

Another 30,000 bpd [barrels per day] of crude will be obtained from the Abuzar off-shore platform, 70 kms west of Iran's Khark Island when the drilling rig is rebuilt, he said.

In the nearby Salman field drilling of the first well is underway in the gas-rich Khouf region, whose reserves have been estimated at seven trillion cubic feet, he said.

With the drilling of two more wells, the area is expected to yield between 800 million to one billion cubic feet of gas, said Kho'i.

Tehran To Double Natural Gas Exports

LD2502095192 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Arak (Central Prov.), Feb. 24, IRNA—Iran's natural gas exports will be doubled to 6 billion cubic metres annually from March 5 onwards this year.

According to the managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Salehi Forouz, here Sunday, the country's proven gas reserves currently stand at 17 trillion cubic metres.

Forouz who is on an inspection tour of this industrial city, said Dlrs 200 million are to be allocated next calendar year (starting march 21) for purchase of pipes to expand the nationwide gas network.

He said the joint venture involves NIGC, and the ministeries of Heavy Industries, and Mines and Metals, and in addition part of the required pipes will be supplied by the Commerce Ministry.

Presently one million housing units throughout the country have piped gas facilities, and with the expansion of the network each year

300,000 houses would be added to the present list of consumers, said Forouz.

In addition, he said, 1,000 industrial units and a large power station in Iran are fuelled by gas.

According to a plan, disclosed the NIGC chief, over the next ten years the number of towns and cities having piped gas facilities would reach 215 with priority being given to regions with cold climates and to provincial towns.

At present, he noted, 99 city gas projects are operating while piping is underway in 140 other towns and cities.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Meets With Afghanistan's Hekmatyar

BK2402154892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Afghan mojahedin leader and Hezb- e-Eslami chief, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan and assessed measures for an early solution of the Afghanistan problem in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan people. Jamaat-i-Islami leader Qazi Hussain Ahmad was also present on the occasion.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Arrives 23 Feb

Met by President

BK2302101792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, was accorded a very warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this morning. He was received by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The distinguished guest inspected a guard of honor. Small girls attired in traditional dresses showered flower petals as President Nursultan Nursultan Nazarbayev passed by them. The entire airport and the route up to the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] have been tastefully decorated with multicolored buntings and ceremonial arches.

Earlier, the distinguished guest was given a warm sendoff when he left Lahore for Islamabad. The punjab governor, Mian Mohammad Azhar, the mayor of Lahore, and senior civil and military officials were present at the airport.

Meets With Nawaz Sharif

BK2302143892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Excerpt] In Islamabad today, Pakistan and Kazakhstan held talks on important international affairs, regional issues, and matters of mutual interest. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, led the Pakistan side, which included federal ministers, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, Malik Mohammad Naim,

Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo, and ministers of state, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo and Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was assisted by his first deputy prime minister, minister of foreign economic relations, and other high officials.

Earlier, the president of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad today on a state visit to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Nawaz Sharif, Nazarbayev Discuss Ties

BK2302164392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif today agreed to build and expand a mutually fruitful relationship between Kazakhstan and Pakistan based on sound economic cooperation and strong trade linkages. The desire to establish such a relationship between the two countries was expressed by the two leaders during nearly three hours of talks held at the prime minister's secretariat in Islamabad today.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who received the Kazakhstan president at the steps of the prime minister's secretariat as he alighted from his limousine, escorted the distinguished visitor to the prime ministerial office where the two leaders held an hour-long discussion without aides. They later moved to the conference room where further talks were held between the two delegations.

The prime minister expressed the confidence that with its strategic location and its rich resources, Kazakhstan would play a vital role in promoting peace in the entire region. Pakistan desires close and cordial relations with Kazakhstan, consistent with our shared history and culture, the prime minister said, and added that his country was particularly looking forward to cooperation in the economic, trade, science and technology and cultural fields.

Reciprocating, President Nursultan Nazarbayev said he was looking forward to the time when Pakistan and Kazakhstan would enjoy a truly dynamic and close relationship.

Protocols Signed

BK2402150692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan and Kazakhstan have signed a joint declaration reaffirming their faith in the universally accepted principles of interstate conduct and commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN charter. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev signed the declaration at the prime minister's secretariat in Islamabad today. The declaration says the two countries will develop and consolidate cordial relations, sincere friendship, good neighborly and mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields on the basis of respect for independence, sovereign equality, territorial integrity and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. They will also promote comprehensive cooperation, especially in economic, trade, scientific, technological, and communications fields. [Video shows Sharif and Nazarbayev signing the declaration]

The two countries also signed four protocols for cooperation in the fields of trade and economics, science and technology, culture, sports and tourism. The two countries have also agreed to set up a joint commission at government level. President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, were also present at the signing ceremony. The joint commission consisting of representatives of each country will examine all issues of mutual interest in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, information, education, tourism, and culture, and communications including air, road, railway links of both the parties and sea ports in Pakistan. It will put up proposals for broadening cooperation and identifying specific forms of cooperation in these fields. The protocol relating to the science and technological cooperation provides that both the countries shall coordinate and render each other mutual assistance for the exchange of information in scientific and technological fields. Services of experts and other personnel will be made available in matters relating to science and technology. The two countries will take necessary measures for the development of long-term and stable trade and economic relations. They will also encourage enterprises and organizations to explore scope for expanding these ties. In external trade relations, both the countries will accord most favored nation treatment. They will also create favorable conditions for investment in the economic fields. Mutual delivery of goods and expansion of services will be effected on the basis of contracting parties in accordance with the existing laws regulating in Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

The cultural agreement is aimed at providing means of closer cooperation and exchanges in the fields of education, culture, mass media, tourism and youth affairs. The federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz; Commerce Minister Malik Naim Khan; Minister for Industries and Culture Sheikh Rashid Ahmad; and Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo, signed these protocols on behalf of Pakistan government, while Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. (Semivev Daud), Foreign Minister Mr. Tolevtay Sulaymanov, and Economic Affairs Minister Mr. (Abisher Sirzed) signed on behalf of their countries.

In an exclusive interview with PTV [Pakistan Television] representative Qamar Mohiuddin after the signing of the agreements, President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that Kazhakstan wants to establish good relations with its neighbors, particularly the Muslim countries and agreements

signed with Pakistan today have laid the foundation of fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Nazarbayev in Kazakh fading into English translation] Common roots of both the cultures are very deep, and, I think that it was not our fault that some time ago these roots were, somehow, cut. And, I think the main goal now is to revive them and to make them flourish. We had a very high-ranking [Pakistani] delegation visiting our country and I met with your prime minister in Davos, Switzerland, and I think that result of it was this visit to your country. We are forging the relations, the contacts, between the two countries and our country is in the Center of Asia, and, we want to establish very friendly, very close relations with our neighbors. I think that the ties of friendship and good relations are very important for us, and the Muslim world is one of our priorities too, and we would like to be together with the Muslim world.

[Mohiuddin Khan] Mr. president, your country signed agreements with Pakistan. Would you like to comment?

[Nazarbayev in Kazakh fading into English translation] As a result of the work in the working groups among the ministers from my delegation and the counterparts from the Pakistan side, there was a number of documents prepared. And, we have concluded today, we signed agreements. I think it laid the ground for our future fruitful cooperation. [end recording].

Agreements Detailed

BK2502040692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan and Kazakhstan held wide-ranging talks on bilateral economic and trade relations in Islamabad yesterday. The Pakistani delegation was led by Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Sartaj Aziz, while the Kazakhstan side was headed by Vice Premier Sembayev Daulet [name and title as heard]. The two sides discussed ways and means to promote bilateral economic ties in various fields including trade, banking, communications, and telecommunications.

Pakistan has offered a $40-50 million loan to Kazakhstan for the purchase of a cement plant built at Pakistan's Heavy Mechanical Complex in Taxila. This loan is in addition to the $10-million credit offered for the import of engineering goods by Kazakhstan. The Kazakhstan delegation has expressed an interest in purchasing machinery for processing agricultural products such as milk, edible oil, and fruit juices. It has been decided that a Pakistani textile industry delegation will visit Kazakhstan in April to explore the possibility of starting joint ventures in the spinning and weaving industries. The Kazakhstan finance minister has proposed trade on a clearing basis or special payments arrangements under which its commercial goods can be exported to third countries through Pakistan or Pakistani traders, while Pakistani goods and products will be exported to Kazakhstan which is interested in importing ready-made garments, shoes, and medicines. The volume of bilateral trade under the special payment arrangements will be about $100 million.

During the meeting, steps to establish road and railway links between the two countries were discussed. Pakistan has offered to assist Kazakhstan in establishing telecommunication links with foreign countries and the required lines will be provided for this.

An agreement in principle has also been reached to open a National Bank branch in Alma-Ata. The bank president will soon visit Alma-Ata to make the arrangements. Kazakhstan has expressed interest in having its currency notes and passports printed by the Pakistan Security Printing Corporation. Kazakhstan has also requested training facilities for its personnel in management, banking, and taxation. Pakistan has offered to provide these facilities. The two sides have agreed to convene the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan-Kazakhstan joint ministerial commission in Islamabad in July.

Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev exchanged views in Murree yesterday on matters of mutual interest, especially the legislative systems in their respective countries. The Senate chairman expressed the hope that the restoration of ties with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries will help strengthen the regional economy. President Nazarbayev has expressed his desire to expand bilateral ties in trade and culture.

A Pakistan International Airlines' Boeing 737 plane is taking off from Karachi this morning on a test flight to Tashkent. The flight is operated in connection with the proposed establishment of air link between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Nazarbayev Arrives in Lahore

BK2502064492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev was accorded an enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Lahore this morning on the last leg of his three-day official visit to Pakistan. He was accompanied by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The distinguished guests were received at the airport by Punjab Governor Mian Mohammad Azhar, Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne, Lahore city Mayor Mian Abdul Majid, and provincial ministers. Two children in traditional Pakistani dress presented bouquets to the distinguished guests. During his stay in the provincial capital, the Kazakhstan president will tour the places of historical importance and attend a civic reception at the Shalamar Bagh before leaving for Alma-Ata.

Earlier, the Kazakhstan president was given a very warm send-off when he left Islamabad for Lahore. The distinguished guest and Madam Nazarbayev were seen off at the airport by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his wife. National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan,

Senate Deputy Chairperson Dr. Noorjahan Panezai, federal ministers, parliament members, and the diplomatic representatives based in Islamabad were also present. A smart contingent from the three armed forces presented the guard of honor to the guests. A 21-gun salute boomed out as the Kazakhstan president boarded the plane.

Government Denies Kashmir Border Skirmish

BK2402163692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 24 (AFP)—Pakistani officials denied here Monday an Indian Government statement saying troops of the two countries had exchanged fire on the line of control in Kashmir.

The New Delhi statement was "part of Indian propaganda" to distract "attention from the uprising inside the Indian-held Kashmir," they said.

Officials here said no such skirmish had occured between the troops of the two countries.

An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi Monday that one Pakistani had died and 11 troopers on both sides were seriously injured in exchange of heavy weapons fire Sunday night in the Kirin sector of the line.

The Indian spokesman said the artillery and heavy weapons duel on the sensitive line, where the two armies are within sight of one another, started when Pakistani troops crossed the frontier and began digging new trenches.

According to the Indian spokesman the exchange continued until early Monday.

Exchanges of fire frequently break out on the line of control in Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two wars.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri separatists on the Indian side, charges which Islamabad denies.

Jamaat Accused of Impeding Foreign Policy

BK2402114992 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 23 Feb 92 pp 1, 14

[By Ahmed Rashid: "Jamaat Is Holding Back Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Islamabad—The Jamaat-i-Islami's cutting edge over the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government, despite its small numerical representation, has inhibited Pakistan's ability to move forward on a host of foreign policy issues, that are today adversely affecting the nation's security and political stability. Senior officials say that blocking of the government's every foreign policy move in the past few months has created more enemies for Pakistan than friends.

Meanwhile, its baiting of Sardar Asif Ali and threats to silence him—a member of the Cabinet—have set a new tone of violence and intimidation even against Cabinet officials.

Senior civilian and military officials are becoming increasingly frustrated with these policies of components of the IJI and Cabinet members like Ejazul Haq's utterances. There is now a unanimous sense in the Foreign Office, the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the Finance Ministry and amongst leading IJI politicians that these policies are ruining rather than helping the survival chances of the present government. Moreover in the military for the first time in 15 years, there is now a serious attempt at delinking itself from Jamaat policies and agenda abroad.

"The Jamaat is presenting a point of view that goes against the government's image abroad and at home," said an IJI politician. Officials point out that in recent months alone the Jamaat has been responsible for:

—Playing a major role along with Hezb-e-Islami in refusing to hand over Russian POWs to Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy when he visited Pakistan, thereby pushing back Pakistan's relations with the new Russian Republic. By refusing to accept a peace settlement in Afghanistan and offering no proposals of its own, the Jamaat is portraying Pakistan as a haven for fundamentalism that is turning off foreign investment and seriously endangering Pakistan's ability to open up to Central Asia.

—There are now some 8,000 to 10,000 Muslim radicals operating in and around Peshawar who range from the Philippines, Indonesia to the Arab world and Morocco. Ambassadors based in Islamabad from these countries have been raising serious objections with the Foreign Office as to why the IJI government is allowing them to train and arm for subverting their own governments at home. The Philippines government has raised natural objections as to why the Moro National Liberation Front is training with the Jamaat and Hezb-e-Islami in Afghanistan. Pakistan's relations with many Asian, African and Arab countries are already being seriously strained by the presence of these foreigners.

—China, Pakistan's closest ally, has once again and more forcibly warned both President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Prime Minister that the training of Muslim radicals from Xinjiang has been going on with the connivance of Pakistani political parties.

Afghan sources say it is still continuing with large numbers of Xinjiang fighters still present around the Khowst region in Afghanistan. China already highly perturbed by the rise of fundamentalism sees this interference as a direct threat to its national integrity.

—The Jamaat is now actively promoting the spread of Islamic radicalism to Central Asia, thereby undercutting the government's policy of trying to establish trade, economic and cultural ties with the region. Visits by Central Asian heads of state to Pakistan are unlikely to yield real advance unless there is a more solid commitment from the government to these Republics that such activities will be stopped in favour of improving relations.

—The growing isolation of the Jamaat at home has forced it to depend more and more on international support to project its views. Thus last week's international conference sponsored by the Jamaat brought together many radical Islamic parties that are banned or outlawed in their own countries—as a member of the ruling IJI the Jamaat has created more embarrassment for the government.

—Other issues such as Riba which is being backed by the Jamaat have created major problems with Western banks and could affect trade with all of Pakistan's trading partners.

Sources said that over the past year Nawaz Sharif has been keeping the Jamaat quiet on the domestic front by allowing them to influence foreign policy decisions. "Qazi Hussain and Professor Khurshid have had more access to the Prime Minister than the entire Foreign Office," said a senior Pakistani diplomat.

The baiting of Sardar Asif to the extent that he is now apparently receiving death threats, demonstrates the inability of such groups to open themselves up for a serious debate on key issues. What is even more damaging for the government is the lacks of support Sardar Asif has been able to muster from the Cabinet.

The fear of the Jamaat apparently still extends to the highest in the land. In any other country it would be inconceivable that a Cabinet Minister receives such threats from a coalition political party and that the Prime Minister offers no support for his own colleague.

However, the Jamaat's own politics are at a watershed. By pursuing the politics of rejectionism, it is offering no solutions of its own as to how the religious right is prepared to deal with the myriad of problems Pakistan faces. Moreover, it has almost nothing to say on such key issues as health, education or the social sector and is instead trying to capitalise on slogans of condemnation, which hardly deal with the real problems that the people face at home. The lack of open debate within the Jamaat and between it and the component parties in the IJI is a reflection of how insecure rather than how strong the Jammat feels at present in the rapidly changing international scenario.

The Jammat's sense of insecurity has been heightened by the new mood in the Army since the new Chief of Staff took over. There is less interest in Islamic radicalism favoured in the past by General Zia and General Beg and greater interest in building bridges and thereby increasing defence purchases from abroad. The Army's decision to cut its losses on Afghanistan and go for a settlement was the first indication of this new mood.

For decades, the Jammat has depended on one of two props—either a pliant army to lean on or a pliant government to seek support from. For the first time the military prop has been removed and the Jamaat remains at sea as to how to deal with this unprecedented scenario.

For the Jammat the real dilemma is that it still insists on projecting itself on internationalist terms—as part of the borderless Islamic Ummah that does not exist as yet. Most Pakistanis are more concerned about bread and butter issues which needs political parties that are prepared to offer a strong does of nationalism and national interest first.